

**Strategic Approach
to International
Chemicals Management**

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International Conference on Chemicals Management
Fifth session
Bonn, Germany, 25–29 September 2023

**Report of the International Conference on Chemicals
Management on the work of its fifth session****I. Opening of the session**

1. The fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management was opened at 10.20 a.m. on Monday, 25 September 2023, at the World Conference Centre in Bonn, Germany, by Pierre Quiblier, Principal Coordinator ad interim, secretariat of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, who acted as master of ceremonies.
2. Following a performance by the Bonn Youth Symphony Orchestra and the presentation of a brief video on the role of the Strategic Approach in promoting a chemical-safe world, opening statements were delivered by Steffi Lemke, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection; Oliver Krischer, Minister of the Environment of North Rhine-Westphalia; Katja Dörner, Mayor of the City of Bonn; Sheila Aggarwal-Khan, Director of the Industry and Economy Division, United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), on behalf of Inger Andersen, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UNEP; and Anita Breyer, President of the Conference.
3. Welcoming participants to Bonn, Ms. Lemke expressed the hope that bold decisions would be taken at the current session to tackle the pollution crisis, in which the role of chemicals had often been overlooked. Much had been achieved using chemicals. They were ubiquitous in daily life – in medicines they helped to save lives, they were present in cosmetics, textiles, batteries and electrical appliances, and they were used in farming, raw materials extraction and housebuilding. However, their presence in the water, soil and air posed a risk to human life, the environment and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. Chemical pollution hindered the right to clean water; for a million people, exposure to toxic substances and fumes in the workplace undermined the right to decent work; and the continuing effects of lead on children’s mental development impacted the right to education. A sustainable alternative was needed to avoid the proven financial, social, health and environmental costs of chemical mismanagement, requiring concrete goals to be set on chemicals and waste management at the international level. Laws needed to be enacted and enforced, requiring government support and finance; education and knowledge must be provided on the day-to-day risks posed by chemicals and waste management; companies needed not only to observe the laws, but also to make their businesses and supply chains sustainable; and innovations from industry should be supported by policy in order to advance the energy transition, circular economy and resource conservation. Achieving those goals would require diverse interests to be balanced through cooperation and the courage to make compromises. In closing, she said that while the international community had failed to achieve the 2020 target of minimizing the adverse impacts of chemicals on human health and the environment, with renewed political momentum the fifth session of the Conference provided an opportunity to do things better.
4. Mr. Krischer, in his remarks, said that while chemicals had many useful applications, their safe use was vital to protect the environment, particularly soils and water. Intact soils stored large quantities of carbon dioxide, were fundamental to biodiversity and groundwater, and were the basis of

food production around the world. The water storage and cooling capacities of soils could also help in mitigating the impacts of flooding and periods of drought and heat. His region had particular experience in dealing with chemicals and chemical safety, as its industrial history had left a legacy of contaminated sites from a time when chemical safety was a lesser priority. While thousands of sites had been successfully decontaminated, many more remained. Protecting water was no less important, and while much had been done in his country and region to reduce water pollution, micropollutants from medicines, detergents and cleaning agents remained a significant concern. His region had made longstanding efforts to reduce micropollutants from wastewater treatment plants, but it intended to take further measures to protect drinking water and hydro-ecology. He concluded by affirming the key role of chemical safety in that endeavour.

5. Ms. Dörner began by welcoming participants to Bonn, which, she said, was not only the second political centre of Germany, but was also a United Nations city and a key location for networking and collaboration towards ensuring a sustainable future. The responsible handling of chemicals was of paramount importance to the citizens of Bonn, especially given its location within the main business region for the chemicals industry in the country. In addition to its economic importance, the field of chemistry was a key component of science and research within the regional universities and scientific institutions, as exemplified by the International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre. In that connection, it was encouraging that the work of the Conference served to advance the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goals 3, 12 and 17.¹

6. In her statement, Ms. Aggarwal-Khan said that the adoption of a new framework instrument for the period beyond 2020 in its strongest possible form was vital, given that the international community had not fulfilled its objective of producing and using chemicals in ways that minimized impacts on human health and the environment by 2020. Consequently, over two million people still died every year due to chemical pollution, while ecosystems and the essential services they provided were undermined. The adoption and implementation of the framework were urgently needed, particularly given that the chemicals industry was expected to have doubled in size between 2017 and 2030. Without reform within the industries producing and using chemicals, the harm caused by unsound chemicals management would also increase, disproportionately affecting the poorest and most vulnerable individuals. Without strong and urgent action to end chemical pollution, international commitments such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and the post-2020 global biodiversity framework would not be met.

7. The new framework instrument should clarify how governments could create policy and regulatory environments that were conducive to shifting business practices, while also defining the role of the chemicals industry and its financial backers. In addition to governments, it was necessary to involve civil society, Indigenous groups, local communities, workers, consumers, young people and the private sector in negotiations, to ensure a just transition. The framework should also provide details on funding and investment mechanisms, particularly to support countries without the institutional capacities for safe chemicals management. Efforts should also be made to realign incentives, with a view to prompting innovation and ending chemical pollution.

8. Ms. Breyer, in her statement, said that, during the current session, there was an urgent need to tackle the global pollution crisis and protect human health and the environment from the risks related to chemicals and waste, notably through the adoption of an ambitious international framework. That framework would involve broad political commitment and operational arrangements to guide action towards addressing the global crisis in the immediate and long terms. She called upon participants to work in accordance with the “Bonn spirit”, which implied respect for the diversity of opinions and striving for common ground by taking a pragmatic approach – live and let live – with a view to finding solutions and reaching consensus on the framework.

II. Organizational matters

A. Adoption of the agenda

9. The Conference adopted the following agenda on the basis of the provisional agenda set out in documents SAICM/ICCM.5/1 and SAICM/ICCM.5/1/Add.1:

1. Opening of the session.

¹ Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages; Goal 12. Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns; Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development.

2. Organizational matters:
 - (a) Adoption of the agenda;
 - (b) Organization of work;
 - (c) Election of officers.
3. Representation, credentials and accreditation.
4. Recommendations from the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.
5. Progress towards the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management:
 - (a) Regional and sectoral achievements in the context of working towards the objectives of the Strategic Approach Overarching Policy Strategy and the overall orientation and guidance on the 2020 goal;
 - (b) Quick Start Programme;
 - (c) Independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach for the period 2006–2015;
 - (d) Emerging policy issues and other issues of concern.
6. Planned activities and draft budget of the secretariat for the period 2024–2026.
7. Venue and dates of the next session of the international conference.
8. Other matters.
9. Adoption of the report of the session.
10. Closure of the session.

B. Organization of work

10. In carrying out its work at the current session, the Conference had before it working and information documents pertaining to the various items on the session agenda.
11. The Conference agreed to meet each day in plenary from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., subject to adjustment as necessary, and to establish such smaller groups to address certain agenda items as it deemed necessary and to specify their mandates and the time frames for their work.
12. The President proposed and the Conference agreed to establish an informal, open-ended group of friends of the President, to be co-facilitated by Eva Kracht (Germany) and Mohammed Khashashneh (Jordan), comprising heads of delegations or high-level representatives, to prepare a draft high-level declaration for consideration by the Conference during the high-level segment.

C. Attendance

13. The following governmental participants were represented: Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czechia, Denmark, Djibouti, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Eswatini, Finland, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guyana, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Italy, Japan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritius, Mexico, Montenegro, Nepal, Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen and the European Union.
14. The following governmental participants were represented as observers: Angola, Belarus, Comoros, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Guinea, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Malawi, Oman, Peru, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Togo, Tunisia, Zambia and Zimbabwe.
15. The following intergovernmental participants were represented: Commission of the Economic Community of West African States; Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; Global Environment Facility; International Labour Organization (ILO); International Union for Conservation of Nature; Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals secretariat; Office

of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development; Ozone Secretariat; secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; secretariat of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals; secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury; secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); UNEP; UNEP-World Conservation Monitoring Centre; United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO); United Nations Institute for Training and Research; United Nations Children's Fund; United Nations University; World Bank; World Food Programme; World Health Organization (WHO).

16. The following non-governmental participants were represented: Action Group for Promotion and Protection of Flora and Fauna (GAPROFFA); AEEFG; AGENDA for Environment and Responsible Development (AGENDA); AKO Foundation; Alliance for Responsible Mining; Alkyl Recycling; Armenian Women for Health and Healthy Environment; Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU); Avfall Sverige – Swedish Waste Management Association; Basel and Stockholm Convention Coordinating Centre for Training and Technology Transfer for the Africa region in Nigeria (BCRC-SCRC-Africa); Basel Convention Regional Centre, Dakar (BCRC-Senegal); Basel Convention Regional Centre for Training and Technology for the Caribbean (BCRC-Caribbean); BASF SE; Bayer; Braskem; BUND – Friends of the Earth Germany; Caribbean Poison Information Network (CARPIN); Centre for Environmental Solutions; Centre for International Environmental Law; Centre for Public Health and Environmental Development; Centre de Recherche et d'Éducation pour le Développement (CREPD); Centre for Earth Works; Centre for Environment Justice and Development (CEJAD); Centre for Pesticide Suicide Prevention (CPSP); Chemical Industry Federation Finland; Chemical Safety Agency; Chemicals and Waste Youth Platform (CWYP); Clariant International Ltd.; Clean Lighting Coalition (CLASP); Clean Production Action (CPA); National Confederation of Romanian Trade Unions-Fratia (CNSLR-FRATIA); Community Action Against Plastic Waste (CAPws); CropLife International; Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ); Eco-Accord; EcoWaste Coalition; Environmental Ambassadors for Sustainable Development; Environmental and Social Development Organization (ESDO); European Association of Chemical Distributors (FECC); European Federation for Construction Chemicals; European Network for Environmental Medicine (EnvMed Network); European Environmental Bureau; Evonik Industries AG.; Expert Association ProMediu; Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (BAuA); FMC; Fokus Nexus Tiga (Nexus3 Foundation); Fundación Valle del Lili Hospital Universitario; German NGO Forum on Environment and Development; Global Alliance on Health and Pollution (GAHP); Global PFAS Science Panel; Green Building Council Costa Rica; Greenpeace International; groundWork; Friends of the Earth South Africa; Hands for Environment and Sustainable Development; Health and Environment Justice Support (HEJSupport); Health Care Without Harm (HCWH); Hyundai Motor Company; International Chrysotile Association (ICA); International Commission on Occupational Health (ICOH); Industriegewerkschaft Bergbau, Chemie, Energie (IGBCE); International Chemical Trade Association; International Sustainable Chemistry Collaborative Centre (ISC3); International Commission on Occupational Health; International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA); International Council on Mining and Metals (ICMM); International Indian Treaty Council (IITC); International Institute for Sustainable Development – Earth Negotiations Bulletin; International Panel on Chemical Pollution; International Pollutants Elimination Network (IPEN); International Society of Doctors for the Environment (ISDE); International Trade Union Confederation (ITUC); International Union of Pure and Applied Chemistry (IUPAC); Journalists for Human Rights; National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (Stockholm Convention Regional Centre (SCRC-India)); Max-Planck Institute for Colloids and Interfaces; Mercy Investment Services; Molepse BioResources; Multi-Stakeholder Processes for Sustainable Development (MSP Institute); NITID; Occupational Safety and Health Authority; Pesticide Action Network (PAN); Plastics Europe AISBL; Polish Chamber of Chemical Industry (PIPC); Port Arthur Community Action Network; Projeto Hospitais Saudáveis; Pure Earth; Rainforest Alliance; Red de Acción en Plaguicidas y sus alternativas (RAPAL); Research Centre for Gender, Family and Environment in Development; Responsible Care Kenya; Royal Society of Chemistry; Ruhr University Bochum; Ruzgar Ecological Society; Safer Chemicals Alternative (ALHEM); Schutzen Care Private Ltd.; Shenzhen Zero Waste; Society of Native Nations; Sustainable Research and Action for Environmental Development; Swedish Society for Nature Conservation (SSNC); Syngenta Crop Protection AG.; Taller Ecologista; The Royal Society of Chemistry; Toxics Link; TOXISPHERA Environment Health Association; TUV Rheinland; United States Council for International Business; University of Cape Town; University of Massachusetts; Verband der Chemischen Industrie e.V.

(VCI); Women Engage for a Common Future (WECF); World Federation of Public Health Associations (WFPHA); Yayasan Fokus Nexus Tiga (Nexus3 Foundation); ZDHC Foundation.²

D. Election of officers

17. In accordance with rules 14 and 19 of the rules of procedure, the successors to the officers elected at the fourth session of the Conference³ served as the Bureau during the current session. The Bureau was accordingly constituted as follows:

President: Anita Breyer (Germany)
 Vice-Presidents: Naresh Pal Gangwar (India)
 Magdalena Frydrych (Poland)
 Valentina Sierra (Uruguay)
 Christopher Kanema (Zambia)⁴

18. Ms. Frydrych also served as Rapporteur.

1. Bureau of the next session of an international conference

19. Introducing the sub-item, the President said that, in accordance with paragraph 2 of rule 14 of the rules of procedure, a new president and four vice-presidents, one of whom would serve as rapporteur, were to be elected by and from among the representatives of the government participants present at the fifth session to serve as the Bureau until the closure of the next session of the Conference. Furthermore, paragraph 3 of rule 14 provided that, in electing the officers, government participants would have due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation. Therefore, each of the five regions of the United Nations was to be represented by one officer in the Bureau.

20. In accordance with rule 14 of the rules of procedure, the Conference elected by acclamation the following members of the Bureau, whose terms would run from the closure of the current session to the closure of the next session of the Conference:

President: Zaigham Abbas (Pakistan)
 Vice-Presidents: Santos Virgílio (Angola)
 Audun Heggelund (Norway)
 Maria Vanessa Aliaga Araujo (Peru)
 Magdalena Frydrych (Poland)

2. Sectoral representatives on the Bureau and invited regional focal points

21. Introducing the sub-item, the President said that, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure, the Chair of the Inter-Organization Coordinating Committee would be a representative on the Bureau. Therefore, the Conference was not required to elect a representative of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC).

22. Further, in accordance with rule 15 of the rules of procedure, the Conference elected by acclamation the following non-governmental representatives to participate in the discussions during the meetings of the Bureau:

Jorge Luis Ocana Correa (United Nations Institute for Training and Research), current Chair of IOMC

Sara Brosche (International Pollutants Elimination Network), representing public interest non-governmental organizations

Rory O'Neill (International Trade Union Confederation), representing labour organizations

Chrysanthi Sofokleous (International Council of Chemical Associations), representing industry

Susan Wilburn (Health Care Without Harm), representing the health sector

² The list of participants is set out in document SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/21.

³ See SAICM/ICCM.4/15, para. 9.

⁴ Mr. Kanema replaced David Kapindula. In the absence of Mr. Kanema, Moleboheng Juliett Petlane (Lesotho) represented the African States on the Bureau for the duration of the fifth session of the Conference.

23. The Conference was informed that the regional groups had designated the following new regional focal points, who would begin their terms upon the conclusion of the current session:

Africa

Julieta Petlane (Lesotho)

Asia and the Pacific

Itsuki Kuroda (Japan)

Central and Eastern Europe

Suzana Andonova (North Macedonia)

Latin America and the Caribbean

Francisco Napoleón García Ortíz (El Salvador)

Western Europe and other States

Ivo de Zwaan (Kingdom of the Netherlands)

III. Representation, credentials and accreditation

24. Ms. Frydrych, Vice-President, reported that the Bureau had examined the credentials submitted to it for the current session as at 28 September 2023, in accordance with rule 10 of the rules of procedure. The representatives of 77 governmental participants had submitted credentials issued either by a Head of State or Government or by a minister for foreign affairs, and one regional economic integration organization had submitted credentials issued by the competent authority of that organization. A total of 33 Governments had submitted information concerning the appointment of their representatives in a scanned copy in electronic form of credentials signed by the Head of State or Government or the Minister for Foreign Affairs, or in a scanned letter or note verbale, including from the permanent representative, or in another form of official communication. A total of 86 Governments had not, as at 28 September, submitted any information regarding their representatives. The Bureau recommended that the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its fifth session accept the official communications from Governments and the regional economic integration organization to the Conference at its fifth session that had been accepted by the Bureau.

25. The Conference approved the report of the Bureau on credentials.

IV. Recommendations from the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

26. Kay Williams (United Kingdom), Co-Chair of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, speaking also on behalf of her fellow Co-Chair Judith Torres (Uruguay), provided a report on the outcomes of the process. She said that having begun in 2017 and having been delayed by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the intersessional process had concluded in the early hours of 25 September 2023 in Bonn, Germany. A draft framework instrument reflecting the outcomes of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 and related draft resolutions had been submitted to the Conference for its consideration. Consensus had been reached on many aspects of the text of the framework instrument, including institutional arrangements, mechanisms to support implementation, issues of concern and measurability, but further work was needed in relation to the text on financial considerations, capacity-building and targets. She thanked the President, the Bureau, the secretariat, the co-facilitators and the moderators of the thematic and informal groups and dialogues for their support and all the stakeholders that had enthusiastically engaged in the process.

27. In the ensuing discussion, many representatives, including several speaking on behalf of groups of countries, thanked the Co-Chairs of the intersessional process, the Bureau, the secretariat, the co-facilitators, the moderators and all those involved for their efforts towards the creation of a new policy framework for the sound management of chemicals and waste. Some representatives, however, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, said that certain issues needed further consideration and negotiation, in relation to the breadth of the scope of the instrument; the principles and approaches included therein; its strategic objectives; the achievability of the targets; the means of measuring progress; financial considerations; sufficient capacity-building; and harmonization of the

new framework with existing multilateral environmental agreements. One representative proposed streamlining the content of the framework and, supported by other representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of stakeholders, said that there should be greater focus on the impact of hazardous chemicals on human health and the environment. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, announced his intention to submit conference room papers on the topics of mainstreaming health aspects in the new framework, with a view to promoting, protecting and upholding human rights, including the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and the right to health as well as a gender responsive approach and a just and inclusive transition. The same representative also said that it was essential to have a robust interface between policies and science at all levels for the protection of human health and the environment.

28. Some representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, outlined some of their achievements in implementing the Overarching Policy Strategy of the Strategic Approach. Their accomplishments related to the adoption and enforcement of legislation, stronger multisectoral engagement, risk reduction, knowledge-sharing and information-sharing and the prevention of illegal trade in chemicals. Other representatives, however, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, expressed concern about the lack of progress in the sound management of chemicals and waste and said that there was an urgent need to increase efforts in that regard. One of the representatives speaking on behalf of a group of countries mentioned in particular the ongoing difficulties experienced by the countries in that group in relation to illegal trafficking in chemicals and waste and the export to their region of hazardous chemicals that the exporting countries had banned in their own territories.

29. Many representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, said that, in order for there to be further progress at the global level, dedicated, long-term, sustainable, timely, predictable, and sufficient financial support was needed. Those speaking on behalf of groups of countries requested the establishment of a financial mechanism to support developing countries and countries with economies in transition in implementing the new framework. One of them proposed that developed countries and private sector entities increase their financial contributions. Another representative was insistent that the chemicals and waste industries should provide most of the funding required.

30. The representative of IOMC said that IOMC had submitted conference room papers containing proposals for draft resolutions on emerging policy issues and issues of concern and on implementation programmes to help achieve the strategic objectives and targets of the framework. He also said that, in support of work related to possible implementation programmes, following the fifth session of the Conference, IOMC would be ready to provide a modest financial contribution. Such a contribution could focus on ensuring multi-stakeholder engagement. Co-financing for such work could also be explored. A number of representatives speaking on behalf of groups of countries stressed the importance of increased intergovernmental, multisectoral and multi-stakeholder cooperation to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste.

31. Capacity-building, technical assistance and technology transfer were also deemed critical. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of stakeholders, announced her organization's intention to submit a conference room paper on the creation of an online capacity-building hub that would match stakeholders' needs with offers for assistance from other stakeholders. Another representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that various modes of cooperation should be enhanced, including South-South cooperation. Several representatives speaking on behalf of groups of countries said that consideration of the specific circumstances, developmental needs and priorities of individual countries and regions should be reflected in the final framework, along with the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. One of them advocated the inclusion in the framework of all the principles of the Rio Declaration and relevant elements of the Sustainable Development Goals.

32. To foster more efficient and effective implementation of the framework, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that it was important to engage in simple and clear communication so that messages could be communicated easily and disseminated widely to policymakers, United Nations bodies, industry, financial institutions and the general public. To facilitate the negotiations on the framework, another representative stressed the need to use internationally agreed language.

33. The representative of an industry association announced three high-level ambitions that the association's members wished to achieve by the year 2030: the provision of access to data on the safety and sustainability of its products; support to 30 countries in their implementation of effective chemical management systems; and the use of more sustainable solutions in their product portfolios and processes.

34. Recognizing that additional discussions on some substantive issues were necessary, the Conference established a sessional committee of the whole to address further the draft framework instrument reflecting the outcomes of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, to be co-chaired by Reggie Hernaus (Kingdom of the Netherlands) and Keima Gardiner (Trinidad and Tobago), with Naresh Pal Gangwar (India) serving as Rapporteur. The Committee of the Whole was empowered to set up break-out groups or informal consultation groups on specific topics as needed. The report of the Committee of the Whole is set out in annex II to the present report.

35. Furthermore, the Conference established a contact group on draft resolutions, to be co-chaired by Ms. Williams and Ms. Torres, to finalize the draft resolutions regarding the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020, and any other draft resolutions submitted for consideration and possible adoption by the Conference.

36. The representative of IOMC introduced a conference room paper containing a draft resolution on implementation programmes to help achieve the strategic objectives and targets of the beyond 2020 framework instrument and said that, when drafting the proposed resolution, IOMC had taken into account suggestions concerning implementation programmes contained in the single consolidated document developed during the second segment of the fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The single consolidated document had also included the suggestion that consideration of draft resolution text on the implementation and focus of such programmes should be taken into consideration in the agenda of the current session. The Conference agreed to refer the draft resolution to the contact group on draft resolutions for further consideration in accordance with its mandate.

37. The representative of UNEP introduced a conference room paper containing a draft resolution and a document on potential areas of collaboration and cooperation in the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the beyond 2020 framework instrument. The document underlined the relevance of fostering collaboration and cooperation between multilateral environmental agreements and other initiatives from the chemicals and waste and the biodiversity clusters; outlined relevant steps taken to build such cooperation; and identified key areas for strengthened collaboration, cooperation and synergies between clusters, with a focus on the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the development and implementation of the beyond 2020 framework instrument. The Conference agreed to refer the draft resolution to the contact group on draft resolutions for further consideration in accordance with its mandate.

38. Recalling that capacity-building was a key component of the new framework instrument and would be an important element for the achievement of the strategic objectives and targets of the beyond 2020 framework instrument, the representative of the International Council of Chemical Associations (ICCA) introduced a conference room paper containing a draft resolution on the establishment of a capacity-building hub. The proposed hub would be an online platform that would allow all stakeholders to register specific capacity-building needs and offers, and would serve as a database for project information and outcomes, thereby making knowledge and best practices accessible to all stakeholders. ICCA proposed that it would financially support the design, maintenance and day-to-day operational management of the hub during the intersessional period and, subject to the results of an evaluation process, beyond that period. The conference room paper also contained proposed text for the capacity-building section of the beyond 2020 framework instrument, which was based on the non-papers prepared by the Co-Chairs of the intersessional process and on feedback received from a wide range of stakeholders in meetings and consultations held during the third segment of the fourth meeting of the intersessional process. After a brief discussion, the Conference agreed to refer further consideration of the part of the conference room paper containing the draft resolution to the contact group on draft resolutions and further consideration of the proposed text regarding capacity-building to the Committee of the Whole.

39. The representative of Mexico introduced a conference room paper containing a draft resolution on mainstreaming a gender perspective and promoting gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in relation to chemicals and waste management, submitted by her country on behalf of the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and co-sponsored by Canada; the Congo; Côte d'Ivoire; Madagascar; the MSP Institute; the United Nations Institute for Training and Research; UNDP; the International Trade Union Confederation; the Caribbean Poison Information Network; the University of Technology, Jamaica; the Center for International Environmental Law; the Zero Discharge of Hazardous Chemicals Foundation; Association des 3 Hérissos; Women Engage for a Common Future, the Pesticide Action Network International; Health and Environment Justice Support; the International Pollutants Elimination Network; the Royal Society of Chemistry; the

International Society of Doctors for the Environment; Taller Ecologista; and the Chemicals and Waste Youth Platform. It was critical to establish a strategy that took into account the harmful effect of the unsound management of chemicals and toxic waste on women and girls in particular and she therefore called for the development of a gender action plan for the beyond 2020 framework instrument, the collection of gender-disaggregated data and the conduct of research on the repercussions of exposure to chemical substances on the health of women and girls, and collaboration with all stakeholders who could provide support for gender-related strategies. She recalled that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa; the Convention on Wetlands of International Importance especially as Waterfowl Habitat; and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora had all developed individual gender action plans. It was vital therefore that a gender action plan be developed for the beyond 2020 framework instrument. The Conference agreed to refer the draft resolution to the contact group on draft resolutions for further consideration in accordance with its mandate.

40. Introducing a conference room paper submitted by the European Union and its member States containing proposed text referring to the overall orientation and guidance document and regarding the strategic objectives of the beyond 2020 framework instrument, the representative of the European Union noted that it was important to include in the single consolidated document reference to the overall orientation and guidance document, in order to ensure that countries continued to be guided by it in their efforts to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste, and to include text regarding the strategic objectives that explained briefly the rationale behind each objective. The Conference agreed to refer the draft resolution to the Committee of the Whole for further consideration in accordance with its mandate.

41. A representative of the health sector introduced a conference room paper, submitted by Panama and co-sponsored by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States, the African region and the International Society of Doctors for the Environment, containing a draft resolution on health surveillance systems for the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 to prevent and protect human health from chemical exposure. When drafting the resolution, suggestions from the World Health Organization (WHO) and from various other States had been sought and incorporated into the proposed text. The provision of surveillance systems for the sound management of chemicals and waste was especially important for countries that did not have public toxicology centres or had limited resources in that regard, as such systems would provide networks that would enable the harmonization of related information within and between countries, strengthen health-care systems and strengthen management within the sector. The Conference agreed to refer the draft resolution to the contact group on draft resolutions for further consideration in accordance with its mandate.

42. The representative of Lesotho introduced a conference room paper submitted by the African region and the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States containing a draft resolution on the financial considerations for implementation of the beyond 2020 framework instrument. The draft resolution set out the views and expectations of the relevant States regarding activities and processes relating to financial resource mobilization in the intersessional period and beyond for the implementation of the beyond 2020 framework instrument in developing countries in the long term. The Conference agreed to refer the draft resolution to the contact group on draft resolutions for further consideration in accordance with its mandate.

43. The representative of Angola introduced a conference room paper submitted by the African region on behalf of 54 member countries, Health Care Without Harm, the World Federation of Public Health Associations, the University of Cape Town and the International Pollutants Elimination Network, containing a draft resolution on the development of guidelines for national focal points for the beyond 2020 framework instrument. The proposed guidelines had been discussed at the second part of the fourth meeting of the intersessional process and were based on the guidelines of the current Strategic Approach. The Conference agreed to refer the draft resolution to the contact group on draft resolutions for further consideration in accordance with its mandate.

44. Subsequently, the Co-Chair of the group of friends of the President introduced a revised text of the high-level declaration that included some bracketed text. Following a lengthy discussion, the text was agreed and the brackets were removed.

45. The Co-Chair of the group of friends of the President reported that the group proposed that the new framework instrument should be known as the “Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste”.

46. Subsequently, the Co-Chair of the Committee of the Whole introduced the revised text of the draft framework instrument, which contained some bracketed text. Following a lengthy discussion, the

remaining issues of substance were resolved and the secretariat was entrusted with making any necessary consequential amendments to the text.

47. In response to a question from a representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries, the Principal Legal Adviser clarified that if it was stated in the draft resolution adopting the new framework instrument that the framework instrument replaced the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management, then any resolutions previously adopted would not automatically be applicable under the new framework instrument. The representative therefore proposed that it be stated in the resolution adopting the new framework instrument that it succeeded, rather than replaced, the Strategic Approach, thereby ensuring that previous resolutions remained applicable.

48. With regard to the high-level declaration, one representative, requesting that his statement be reflected in the present report, recalled that many opinions put forward during discussions, but not all, had been reflected in the draft text of the declaration, and that some countries had needed to make compromises. It was regrettable that the declaration did not reflect the main goal of cooperation under the framework instrument as being the sustainable management of chemicals throughout their life cycle, through the development of international links between, and capabilities of, interested countries, and the expansion of access to best available technologies in order to bridge the gap between developed and developing countries. Furthermore, he underscored that it was the belief of his delegation that chemical pollution was only one of several significant environmental factors, and not the only such factor, as stated in the declaration, that posed a threat to the health and safety of humans and the environment. Regrettably, the head of the delegation had been unable to take part in the high-level segment, as his visa had not been issued in a timely manner, leading to his views not being expressed during that segment. His delegation considered the high-level declaration to be a political document of the Conference at its fifth session and therefore reserved the right to disagree with some of its provisions.

49. The Conference adopted resolution V/1, as orally amended, on the adoption of the Bonn Declaration for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste (see annex I).

50. Following the work of the contact group on resolutions, the Conference adopted the following resolutions (see annex I):

Resolution V/2: Vote of thanks

Resolution V/3: Financial considerations

Resolution V/4: Mainstreaming a gender perspective and promoting gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls in chemicals and waste management

Resolution V/6: International cooperation and coordination

Resolution V/7: Development of guidelines for national focal points

Resolution V/8: Implementation arrangements

Resolution V/9: Measurability structure, as orally amended

Resolution V/10: Health surveillance systems for the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste to prevent and protect human health from chemical exposure, as orally amended

Resolution V/11: Highly hazardous pesticides, as orally amended

51. In relation to the resolution on the measurability structure, the representative of IOMC presented an offer from IOMC to lead the work of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators, subject to the availability of resources.

52. One representative expressed the view that the preparation for and the organization of the current session of the Conference had not been smooth. Furthermore, he recalled, in relation to the resolution on international cooperation and coordination, that, in the view of his country, it was not appropriate to call for all stakeholders of the Conference to engage in the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, as the negotiations of that committee concerned the structure of a new international agreement rather than chemical hazards.

53. The Conference did not reach agreement on the wording of the draft resolution on the development of an international code of conduct on chemicals and waste management but agreed that

the topic was important and that consideration of the topic should continue intersessionally, with a view to presenting a revised draft resolution at the next session of the Conference.

V. Progress towards the achievement of the 2020 goal of sound chemicals management

A. Regional and sectoral achievements in the context of working towards the objectives of the Strategic Approach Overarching Policy Strategy and the overall orientation and guidance on the 2020 goal

54. Introducing the sub-item, the representative of the secretariat recalled that, in accordance with paragraph 24 of the Overarching Policy Strategy, the Conference carried out periodic evaluations of the Strategic Approach. To that end, the Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, at its third meeting, had proposed that the secretariat develop a simple progress report that provided an overview of Strategic Approach activities and accomplishments using existing data, for consideration by the Conference at its fifth session. It had also requested the secretariat to report to the Conference, at its fifth session, on progress in the implementation of the overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals. He drew attention to the secretariat's report on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach for the period 2017–2022 (SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/2, annex), as well as to additional information submitted by other stakeholders such as the secretariat on the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach (SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/6, annex), Clean Production Action (SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/18, annex II) and IOMC (SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/19, annex).

55. The President invited representatives to provide updates on achievements in the context of working towards the objectives of the Overarching Policy Strategy and the overall orientation and guidance for achieving the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals.

56. The representative speaking on behalf of the African region highlighted the progress made in the elimination of lead in paint and the establishment of the Quick Start Programme trust fund as notable accomplishments of the Strategic Approach, while also noting the little or slow progress made in certain areas of chemicals and waste management and the failure to reach the 2020 goal of sound management of chemicals. With respect to the new instrument for the period beyond 2020, the region's position was in line with the areas identified in the secretariat's report as requiring concerted effort and action beyond 2020.

57. The representative of the International Pollutants Elimination Network said that more than 800 activities and projects promoting the sound management of chemicals and waste in low- and middle-income countries had been conducted under the Network. She drew attention to document SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/13, describing case studies of work on the elimination of lead paint; exposure of threats from chemicals in plastics and plastic waste; electronics, hazardous chemicals and gender issues; and the promotion of alternatives to toxic pesticides.

58. The representative of a health-care non-governmental organization summarized her organization's progress report for the period 2020–2022, which was included in the secretariat's report on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach during the period 2017–2022 (SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/2, annex).

59. A number of other representatives also spoke under the sub-item. One, speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that her constituency recognized the need for a global approach and aimed to work with all stakeholders to deliver on its vision of a toxic-free environment, maximize the safe contribution of chemicals to society and avoid harm to the planet and future generations. Another, noting that any substance could be hazardous if handled incorrectly, highlighted the importance of international-level technical consultations and technology exchange, vocational training of specialists and dissemination of environmental knowledge and, for many countries, continued support from the international community and official development assistance. A third representative recommended that the beyond 2020 framework provide for a reduced reporting burden, through the introduction of an online tool, and improved efficiency through maximized use of existing information.

60. One representative reported that a project being implemented in his country under the Special Programme would lead to the development of his country's chemical and hazardous waste management policy and legislation and support the updating of the Globally Harmonized System of

Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, thus contributing to the achievement of the 2020 goal of the Strategic Approach.

61. The Conference agreed to welcome the work carried out by the secretariat on the report on progress in the implementation of the Strategic Approach and overall orientation and guidance during the period 2017–2022 and the additional information provided by regional and sectoral representatives.

B. Quick Start Programme

62. Introducing the sub-item, the President said that the Quick Start Programme had contributed substantially to building and strengthening capacity in developing countries and countries with economies in transition by providing seed money for specific activities to support the identification of capacity needs and establish basic capacity for achieving the objectives of the Strategic Approach. Projects under the Programme had provided an opportunity to identify and share good practices and lessons learned, thus preventing duplication of effort and maximizing the use of available resources. She drew attention to a report on the Quick Start Programme and its trust fund, which had been prepared by the secretariat for consideration by the Open-ended Working Group at its third meeting (SAICM/OEWG.3/7).

63. The representative of the secretariat provided a brief summary of the report. He recalled that in resolution I/4 the Conference had decided to establish the Quick Start Programme to support initial capacity-building activities for the implementation of the Strategic Approach, building on the outcomes of the first session of the Conference and the Bali Strategic Plan for Technology Support and Capacity-building. The Conference had closed the Programme's trust fund to new contributions at its fourth session, held from 28 September to 2 October 2015, and the Programme itself had remained operational until 31 December 2019.

64. The Conference noted the final closure date of the trust fund and thanked all the donors that had contributed to it.

C. Independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach for the period 2006–2015

65. Introducing the sub-item, the President recalled that resolution IV/4 of the Conference set out the terms of reference for an independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach for the period 2006–2015. In the resolution, the Conference had directed the Open-ended Working Group to consider, among other things, the conclusions of the independent evaluation and to submit them for consideration at its fifth session. The document considered by the Open-ended Working Group had been an advance version of the executive summary of the evaluation report (SAICM/OEWG.3/3). The final report, which had been published in September 2019, was set out in document SAICM/ICCM5/INF/1.

66. The representative of the secretariat presented the report of the independent evaluation, which had highlighted the substantial progress and efforts made by stakeholders in achieving the goals and implementing the Strategic Approach, although it had also highlighted a number of areas where progress was lacking. The report's analysis and synthesis were expected to prove useful in finalizing the beyond 2020 framework instrument and deciding on any future intersessional activities.

67. The President encouraged representatives to consider how the information and the recommendations in the report might be used in the finalization of the beyond 2020 framework and in deciding on any future intersessional activities.

68. The Conference welcomed the final evaluation report.

D. Emerging policy issues and other issues of concern

69. Introducing the sub-item, the President recalled that one of the functions of the Conference, as set out in paragraph 24 (j) of the Overarching Policy Strategy, was to focus attention and call for appropriate action on emerging policy issues as they arose and to forge consensus on priorities for cooperative action. She drew attention to a report on emerging policy issues and other issues of concern (SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/16), prepared by the participating organizations of IOMC, describing progress in the implementation of resolutions II/4, III/2 and IV/2.

70. The representative of IOMC presented the report, which described activities called for by the Conference at its previous sessions and the progress achieved in relation to the eight existing emerging policy issues and other issues of concern, as developed by and received from the respective IOMC lead organizations. The information in the report built on the two documents on emerging policy

issues submitted to the Open-ended Working Group at its third meeting (SAICM/OEWG.3/6 and SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/9) in response to a request from the Conference at its fourth session.

71. He presented a draft resolution set out in a conference room paper, which built on conference room papers submitted by IOMC organizations during the fourth meeting of the intersessional process. The proposed approach for emerging policy issues and issues of concern had also been submitted to the Open-ended Working Group during virtual meetings. As actions to address existing emerging policy issues and other issues of concern were still being implemented, a transitional measure was proposed pending new arrangements to be adopted for issues of concern as part of the new instrument. The proposal aimed to continue the implementation of activities on existing emerging policy issues and issues of concern until the Conference determined the future path under the new framework. The draft resolution text in the conference room paper was intended to supplement the text in draft resolution V/4 set out in document SAICM/IP.4/13.

72. Noting that the report covered an extensive set of issues and a broad set of recommendations, the President encouraged representatives to consider how the information and the recommendations in the report might be used in the finalization of the beyond 2020 framework and in deciding on any future intersessional activities.

73. One representative said that while her delegation was of the view that the work on emerging policy issues had been useful and could to some degree continue under the new instrument, they wanted to ensure that the new instrument had the capacity to address those issues. With respect to the report, her delegation considered that the elements of the action plan on highly hazardous pesticides in the annex needed further work and that the annex should therefore not be welcomed. It further considered that the conference room paper required certain amendments.

74. The Conference agreed to refer the draft resolution to the contact group on draft resolutions for further consideration in accordance with its mandate.

75. Following the work of the contact group on resolutions, the Conference adopted resolution V/5 on emerging policy issues and issues of concern (see annex I).

VI. Planned activities and draft budget of the secretariat for the period 2024–2026

76. Introducing the item, the President drew attention to a report on the activities and staffing of the secretariat for the period July 2015–June 2023 (SAICM/ICCM.5/3/Rev.1), providing a proposed programme of work and a draft indicative budget for the period 2024–2026.

77. The Conference established a contact group on the proposed programme of work and budget, to be co-chaired by Premysl Stepanek (Czechia) and Olubunmi Olusanya (Nigeria). The contact group was mandated to coordinate closely with any other group established by the Conference at the current session to take into account the necessary activities and cost implications in the proposed programme of work and draft indicative budget for the period 2024–2026.

78. Following the work of the contact group, the Conference adopted resolution V/12 on the programme of work and budget (see annex I).

VII. High-level segment

A. Opening of the high-level segment

79. On the afternoon of Thursday, 28 September 2023, the Conference convened in the form of a high-level segment attended by ministers, other heads of delegation and high-level representatives. The segment was opened at 1.20 p.m. by Mr. Quiblier, who acted as master of ceremonies.

80. The session was opened with a video address by Olaf Scholz, Federal Chancellor, Germany. Opening statements were then delivered by Inger Andersen, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UNEP; and Steffi Lemke, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation, Nuclear Safety and Consumer Protection, Germany.

81. In his opening statement, Mr. Scholz said that the use of chemicals was an integral part of modern life, generating daily benefits across multiple sectors, including in agriculture, medicine, technology and the clothing industry, as well as in the domestic space. The chemicals industry also fostered jobs creation and was an indispensable component of global value chains. However, global mismanagement of chemicals and their waste had led to a planetary crisis. According to the World

Health Organization, toxic pollution caused by chemicals threatened millions of lives every year, especially in developing countries.

82. Persistent synthetic chemicals were ubiquitous, impacting biodiversity and polluting the resources on which human survival depended. Consequently, joint action must be taken. The fifth session of the Conference provided an opportunity to define how the global community would manage chemicals and waste in the future. Therefore, he encouraged ambitious commitments to be made in the high-level declaration that was expected to be adopted as an outcome of the session.

83. Institutional and legal capacities must be expanded with a view to reaching consensus on the data required and creating synergies with existing strategies, including in the fields of climate and biodiversity protection. So long as they involved clear commitments from all sides and were truly ambitious, the documents under negotiation at the current session could serve to guide the entire United Nations system; provide points of reference for the private sector, academia and civil society; raise global awareness; and lead to collaborative action. He wished the Conference every success at its fifth session and expressed appreciation for the work under way, and warmly welcomed all participants to the United Nations city of Bonn.

84. In her statement, Ms. Andersen thanked all those involved in the negotiation of the draft framework instrument on global chemicals management. She said that without reform of the chemicals industry, which was growing fast, the harm caused by unsound management of chemicals would also grow. The adoption of a robust framework, backed by the right financing for developing States, was thus urgent to enable the world to retain the benefits of chemicals, while protecting human, planetary and economic health. She urged everyone, including the companies, countries, civil society or scientists that produced, used and sold chemicals, to show compromise and creativity. She asked governments to come up with new policies and incentives that would push the chemicals industry to adapt its business practices and asked the chemicals industry to show what it was capable of, for example in finding green and sustainable alternatives to hazardous chemicals. She also asked countries to support the process to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution and a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, noting that science could provide solutions and spark innovation. Without urgent action, the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the national targets under the Paris Agreement and the targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework would not be met.

85. Ms. Andersen asked participants to focus their creativity on finding financing solutions, referring to some that had been used in the past, such as blended finance, funding windows in existing mechanisms, innovative fiscal policies and debt swaps. In closing, she urged the Conference to take the last step and secure a deal on a framework instrument that would enable the world to start delivering on the vision of a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste, for a safe, healthy and sustainable future.

86. In her opening remarks, Ms. Lemke called on participants to intensify political pressure to fight the ongoing pollution crisis, noting that sustainable chemicals and waste management was crucial to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the promise to leave no one behind. Nevertheless, the goal on the sound management of toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes agreed upon at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, held in Rio de Janeiro in 1992, had been missed. One reason for that failure was a lack of knowledge and, in that regard, the recent second Berlin Forum on Chemicals and Sustainability had helped to clarify the potential economic, social and environmental costs of failing to act. Lack of funding had been another hindrance. Financial support was needed for building competence and sharing knowledge, and to enable countries to develop their capacities to manage chemicals. Germany would provide €10 million to support a framework in that area. Political will was paramount. She urged the General Assembly of the United Nations to give attention to the chemicals and waste agenda, thereby raising awareness of the need to combat pollution and seek innovation in sustainable chemistry. Noting that having been witness to environmental damage had propelled her on to a path into politics, she stressed the importance of the systematic safe management of chemicals and waste in the energy, transport, building and finance sectors. In closing, she expressed the hope that shared solutions, implemented jointly, would set a course for a healthy, toxin-free environment.

B. Statements from the perspectives of the youth, the economy and human rights

87. Statements from the perspectives of the youth, the economy and human rights were then delivered by Racheal Nestor from the Chemicals and Waste Youth Platform and the Caribbean Youth

Environmental Network; Valerie Hickey, Director-General for Sustainable Development of the World Bank; and Marcos Orellana, Special Rapporteur on hazardous substances and wastes of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

88. Ms. Nestor, in her statement, said that in a world on the brink of ecological collapse, with ongoing crises fuelled by the unsound management of chemicals and waste, young people had the right to be actively involved and valued in transforming the global approach to chemicals, waste and pollution challenges. Following continuing consultations with children and youth worldwide on priorities for the future of chemical governance, she presented the first global youth declaration on chemicals and waste, which was to be followed by an extended policy paper in December 2023. The declaration articulated a shared vision and commitment to fostering a sustainable, equitable and toxin-free world in which people and the environment were protected from the detrimental impacts of chemicals and waste. It called on the United Nations, governments, civil society and all relevant stakeholders to recognize that uncontrolled and reckless chemicals and waste management practices represented an intergenerational injustice, compromising the health, human rights, environmental stability and development potential of all present and future generations.

89. Children and young people experienced heightened levels of exposure to hazardous chemicals and waste, which caused harmful and irreversible health impacts and necessitated specific policies for the protection of their health and rights. Enhancing understanding of the manifold impacts on vulnerable population groups was key, through rigorous research and monitoring programmes, which required a scaling up of funding and scientific infrastructure, notably to promote studies on population groups with the least corresponding data and to ensure the active participation of Indigenous Peoples, local practitioners and community scientists. Real-time monitoring systems, digital chemistry and artificial intelligence tools should also be harnessed in order to improve the efficiency, accuracy and comprehensiveness of environmental protection efforts.

90. In line with the right to know and the right to science, the declaration also called for equitable access to disaggregated data, monitoring and analysis of the impacts of chemicals, waste and pollution. Furthermore, the commitment to a human rights-based approach should be upheld in chemicals and waste management, emphasizing the rights of all to a safe and healthy environment. Accessible education on chemicals and waste management should be promoted, including on green and sustainable chemistry, with a view to empowering individuals and communities to assess misinformation, equip them with critical knowledge and enable the future workforce to respond to environmental and societal challenges. Analysis was required on the transition from hazardous industrial materials and products to sustainable solutions, while empowering youth with insights to inform future efforts towards responsible industrial practices.

91. Rectification of the disproportionate use of toxic materials in marginalized communities was required by way of remediation efforts, including in relation to legacy pollution. Meanwhile, strengthened interlinkages between the mainstreaming of chemicals with broader frameworks, including those on climate change, biodiversity, desertification, and the 2030 Agenda, were necessary. Recognition and investment were key in elevating youth-led solutions to chemicals and waste crises. In that vein, a clearly defined children and youth strategy across the UNEP chemicals and waste portfolio, co-designed with young people, would be indispensable. Translating the principles set out in the youth declaration into tangible outcomes for the benefit of current and future generations was crucial.

92. In her statement, Ms. Hickey said that too many people were dying or being left permanently vulnerable as a result of chemical pollution and the unchecked and unmanaged use of chemicals. The resources and solutions existed to manage chemicals better and ensure that the global community benefitted from them, but the political will to do so was still lacking. With a view to finding that political will, she sought to show the scale of the problem. Lead, for example, could still be found in pipes, soils, cosmetics and cookware. Some 5.5 million people died every year because of lead poisoning, with death often coming at the end of a life of cognitive impairment that prevented them from being productive and restricted their income. Deaths were highest in low- and middle-income countries, but poor communities in every country suffered. The economic cost was estimated to be almost \$10 trillion. Cadmium, which was commonly found in fertilizers, batteries and electronic equipment and could affect the cardiovascular system and lead to kidney failure and cancer, caused the deaths of almost 2 million people every year. Asbestos, which was banned in many countries, was increasingly used in others, and it was estimated that up to 0.5 million workers would die every year by 2050 from illnesses caused by the mineral. In terms of nitrogen, acknowledging that without nitrogen-based fertilizers the number of people who were starving would be much greater than 258 million, Ms. Hickey described the consequences of its poor management. Only about 40 per cent of the nitrogen applied on farms was actually absorbed by crops; the rest leached into water, affecting

marine biodiversity, fisheries and food security. It also volatilized into the air, where it turned into nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide. In children, nitrogen caused blue baby syndrome and stunting. In economic terms, she said, a 10 per cent increase in the use of nitrogen fertilizer led to an increase of less than 2 per cent in agricultural productivity, but a decline of almost 6 per cent in labour productivity, because of the workers applying the fertilizer falling ill. It was crucial to have a common understanding of where the safe and proper use of chemicals ended and where overuse and harmful pollution began. It was known, for example, that there was no safe level of exposure to lead.

93. Adamant that chemicals and waste that had been banned domestically should never be exported overseas, Ms. Hickey said that, in addition to the creation of an international policy, it was necessary to fill the gaps in national policies. National, evidence-based policy frameworks that incentivized the right behaviours through environmental and safety standards were required. Policies had to be supported by strong institutions. As well as capacity-building for ministries of environment, the capacity-building of ministries of agriculture should be carried out so the extension workers who worked with farmers were able to explain why using less fertilizer would not lead to a reduction of productivity. It was also necessary to work with local retailers that supplied farmers with the fertilizer to advise them on which products they should stock and sell. Every country also needed robust infrastructure to manage the purchase, storage, use and disposal of chemicals.

94. In terms of what was required going forward to tackle chemical pollution, Ms. Hickey spoke of the need for real-time data that could be collected in all countries and made publicly available. That would enable progress to be tracked and the failure to make progress to be penalized. Greater financial resources were required, at the domestic level and in terms of international public finance and private capital. It was also essential for the money that was already available to be used more efficiently and effectively, so that more could be done and faster. Public policy needed to provide the certainty that the private sector required in order to invest, and international public finance had to remove the risks inherent in certain private investment deals, increasing the returns and attracting further investment. It was also crucial that all the money available to support the management of chemical pollution was easily and quickly accessible. Partnerships were important too, within and across the public and private sectors, governments, society, the chemical value chain and the global North and South. Engagement with local communities and small businesses, which often suffered the most from chemical pollution, was vital.

95. Mr. Orellana said that humanity could not afford to aggravate the toxification of the planet. To combat that issue, strong tools were required, and could be employed in the form of human rights. Millions lost their lives every year owing to their exposure to hazardous substances, with many more suffering due to illness and hardship. Such exposure was preventable, as it resulted from a political choice. It was time to embrace a bold vision to protect human lives, health and the environment, moving away from narrow self-interests that led to a zero-sum game in which both humanity and the environment lost. Human rights could contribute to overcoming such a dynamic and ensuring that everyone could enjoy the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, leaving no one behind.

96. Human rights opposed exploitation, discrimination and abuse, with a view to achieving a world free from fear and want. However, in an attempt to divert attention, industry interests had led to positing of the notion that human rights were opposed to economic development. For example, the right to science implied the welcoming of technology and innovation at the service of human rights, and required alignment between the best available science and regulatory measures. However, a gap currently existed between the risks and the exposure prevention measures, which was no accident, but rather the result of disinformation spread by industries and corporations that were guided based on the immediacy of financial profits. The result was a planetary crisis of unprecedented proportions that threatened to alter some of the defining traits of human nature, such as intelligence and fertility. In that regard, human rights provided a moral compass to confront the global chemical crisis.

97. Notwithstanding the right to information, there was a lack of understanding of most of the chemicals in the market, which highlighted the need for stronger protection. The notion that safe management and minimization of the risks associated with chemicals would lead to their benefits being reaped by society was unrealistic. For the most vulnerable groups, including Indigenous Peoples, women and children, the idea of minimizing such risks was meaningless. In the real world, people faced serious environmental injustices resulting from chemical exposure. The right to a healthy environment was a strong ally in the pursuit of protection and remedies, and might explain why it was so keenly opposed by those who would rather remain unaccountable for the harm they had inflicted on the planet and humanity. Nonetheless, morality behoved the international community to address global environmental injustice. Doing so would involve putting an end to odious double standards such as the export of banned hazardous pesticides; mobilizing substantial resources for international cooperation

and solidarity; applying due diligence in supply and value; and overcoming the legacy of environmental racism, together with enduring forms of environmental violence. Human rights should serve as the common ground for collaboration towards overcoming the global chemicals crisis.

C. Introduction of the high-level declaration process and progress

98. The President recalled that the drafting process for the high-level declaration had begun in 2020 and had included extensive consultation with countries and other stakeholders. She had prepared an initial draft of the declaration, on which the consultations of the informal open-ended group of friends of the President had based their work during the current session. Although the text of the declaration had not yet been finalized, the current draft was a concise text in which current global challenges were outlined, priority areas to be addressed were identified, and the determination and commitment to take urgent and ambitious action on the global challenges was communicated.

D. Reflections by key stakeholder representatives

99. A short discussion was held on the messages delivered by the key speakers. Representatives first heard a statement by Virginijus Sinkevičius, European Commissioner for the Environment, Oceans and Fisheries, followed by the reflections of a panel of representatives from intergovernmental organizations. The panel discussion was moderated by Nikhil Seth, Assistant Secretary-General and Executive Director, United Nations Institute for Training and Research, and the panellists were Haoliang Xu, Under-Secretary-General, Associate Administrator and Director, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP; Ciyong Zou, Deputy Director General, United Nations Industrial Development Organization; Maria Neira, Director, Department of Environment, Climate Change and Health, World Health Organization; and Joaquim Nunes, Chief Officer, International Labour Organization. Mr. Sinkevičius, thanking Germany for hosting the current session, recalled that although the global chemicals industry was responsible for employing many millions of people and chemicals themselves were vital for well-being and health, chemical pollution posed a heavy burden on human and economic development and was recognized as one element of the triple planetary crisis. The sound management of chemicals and waste had also been recognized as crucial for achieving many of the goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. In that regard, as part of its chemicals strategy for sustainability, the European Commission had introduced, in 2023, specific hazard classes for endocrine disruption into its legislation and was now working on introducing those same hazard classes into the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals. Endocrine disruptors caused permanent effects on the bodies of humans and animals at especially vulnerable stages of development, mimicking the body's own hormones, and could even be passed on to future generations. Turning to the beyond 2020 framework instrument, he noted that it should be based on the notion of transitioning to a green and sustainable economy, for example as outlined in the European Green Deal; on an ambition to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals; and on global cooperation, shared responsibility and the spirit of compromise. The European Union would continue to support efforts to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste at the global level, including by supporting capacity-building, strengthening institutions and improving the implementation of multilateral and national instruments on chemicals and waste.

100. Turning to the panellists, Mr. Seth asked them for their personal reactions to the key speakers' messages. For Mr. Xu, the passionate statement by the youth representative was a call to turn away from the current reckless path of development and to think about future generations. Mr. Zou said that the scale of the chemicals problem was poorly understood, and that a shared understanding was needed in order to move forward in addressing the pollution crisis. Ms. Neira, noting that the key speakers appeared to be aligned in offering solutions, said that rhetoric had played its role and it was now time to identify the obstacles to effective action and remove them. For Mr. Nunes, there was a need to accelerate progress and to recognize that the problem had to be tackled holistically, considering environment, health and labour jointly and using the strength of existing international frameworks to support the new chemicals management framework.

101. The panellists were then asked what they were doing, or would do, in their institutions to make the ministerial declaration proposed for adoption at the current session a reality in the lives of people everywhere. Acknowledging that it was a big question, Mr. Xu said that UNDP had been working on chemicals and waste for a long time but needed to scale up that work. In addition, UNDP would increasingly focus on quality of governance, which was a determinant factor in the outcome of development in the area of chemicals and waste management. Mr. Zou echoed the comment regarding scaling up, adding that UNIDO planned to expand its partnerships in the field to promote sustainable value chains and the circular economy approach to the sound management of chemicals and waste, as well as promoting innovative business models such as chemical leasing. In Ms. Neira's view, WHO

was attempting to use the health argument, namely scientific evidence, to mobilize action, as well as providing interventions that protected health by ensuring that ministers of health were part of the conversation. Mr. Nunes reported that occupational safety and health had recently been recognized as a fundamental labour right, meaning that all Member States should have a national policy, programme and system covering all occupational hazards, providing another international framework that could be used to promote the safe management of chemicals.

102. The moderator's last question to Mr. Xu was about the attitudinal shift needed, and whether that shift would be part of what drove UNDP going forward. Responding, Mr. Xu said that the United Nations had adopted a clear commitment to a multi-stakeholder approach, which was essential for tackling a complex issue like chemicals. Asked how UNIDO could incorporate the multi-stakeholder approach, Mr. Zou confirmed that within the large chemicals industry, UNIDO worked first with companies and then also with academia to find solutions. It would also contribute through cooperation with other multi-donor platforms to support capacity in the developing world. Responding to the question of how WHO would move beyond working with ministries of health, Ms. Neira recalled that health depended on many aspects of life, including energy sources used, food production methods, cities and chemicals, and said that the health community needed to be empowered to influence all those aspects. She encouraged governments to measure the effectiveness of their interventions in various spheres using the associated reduction in mortality. Lastly, asked who within the tripartite structure of ILO would be its strongest allies in implementation, Mr. Nunes said they would all be strong allies. He noted that the entities within the United Nations each had their own constituency but had to also consider many other interconnected issues, such as migration and gender. Underscoring the need for the whole-of-government approach to formulate the best policies and regulations and enforce legislation, he urged governments to bring employer and worker organizations into the discussion, as their ideas that would be helpful in addressing challenges related to chemicals management.

103. Wrapping up the discussion, the moderator recalled the elements mentioned by Ms. Hickey as essential for the future, namely policy changes, institutional changes, solid data and analytics, money, and partnerships, to which he added leadership in all institutions, in order to make it all happen.

104. Ms. Lemke expressed her thanks to the moderator of the panel and to the panellists for sharing their reflections, and introduced a video message from Robert Habeck, the Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Climate Action, and Vice-Chancellor of Germany. In the message, Mr Habeck recalled that the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management was currently the only instrument at the international level that focused on responsible chemical management, climate change, pollution and biodiversity loss. In the light of the triple planetary crisis, it was vital to create an environment that allowed the chemicals industry to act as a driving force for the innovation and future-proof solutions required for sustainable development. A solid framework was therefore required that allowed for the safer use of chemicals while also upholding the indispensable diversity of chemicals used globally, and that could only be achieved by businesses, governments and society working together. In that regard, he noted that the chemicals industry was a reliable and essential partner that was already active at the global level, for example through the Responsible Care programme, and many businesses in downstream sectors had also adopted a proactive, risk-based approach to developing the solutions required to ensure that chemical substances were used safely throughout their life cycle.

E. High-level round tables

105. On the afternoon of Thursday, 28 September 2023, round-table discussions were held in the "World Café" format on the following three themes:

- (a) Strengthening chemicals and waste management systems and capacities: bridging implementation gaps through multisectoral and stakeholder collaboration;
- (b) Fostering solutions and sustainable chemistry innovation in economic and industry sectors along value chains: mobilizing leadership;
- (c) Maximizing contributions of sound management of chemicals and waste in achieving sustainable development goals: creating linkages and fostering action.

106. The rapporteurs provided a summary of the outcomes of the round-table discussions.

107. Regarding the round-table discussion on the theme of strengthening chemicals and waste management systems and capacities and bridging implementation gaps through multisectoral and stakeholder collaborations, the rapporteurs highlighted the need for countries that used but did not produce chemicals to receive enhanced guidance on those chemicals, including their associated

hazards. In that connection, those who put chemicals on the market were responsible for their management and the associated risks. There had been consensus on the need for a framework that all countries could endorse, as well as on definitions of the terms “sustainable chemistry” and “sustainable chemicals”, which could encourage research, innovation and investment. The issue of a lack of funding had been emphasized, therefore resources and political support should be leveraged, together with incentives to spur innovation. Partnerships were also crucial, as solutions could not be found using public money alone. To ensure sufficient national capacities, significant ambition and strong political will were necessary, with a particular focus on vulnerable groups, while disaster management also needed further attention. Another key message was that a realistic approach should be taken to reaching an agreement in relation to access to data. Lastly, greater efforts should be made to address the imbalance between developed and developing countries, while providing more information to those in the private and informal sectors.

108. On the theme of fostering solutions and sustainable chemistry innovation in economic and industry sectors along value chains and mobilizing leadership, round-table participants highlighted that the new framework had the potential to drive change, provided there was good cooperation and effective multi-stakeholder partnerships that led to benefits for all. In that regard, the circular economy and green chemistry were simultaneously good for the economy, business and the environment. Moreover, successful initiatives must include legislation, market pressure and voluntary initiatives. Sustainable chemistry innovations were mobilized through leadership and cooperation between industrial organizations and governments, and comprehensive legislation was needed at the national level to promote the industry sectors that implemented sustainable solutions. It was also emphasized that education was key to the engagement of younger generations. Innovative finance was required, including private financing, which, in turn, necessitated harmonized standards of transparency, due diligence and environmental and social responsibility. Risk assessment tools should be used to influence investors, and proper legislation was needed for innovations and for effective actions to be taken by governments, including moving from regulation to implementation and enforcement, which were key for proper chemicals management.

109. With regard to the topic on maximizing the contributions of the sound management of chemicals and waste in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, creating linkages and fostering action, partnerships were considered to be the key to success. However, for cross-cultural and cross-sectoral partnerships, financing was needed. Meanwhile, industries were lobbying for policies to foster a harmonized data collection system. One rapporteur highlighted the importance of including Indigenous Peoples and local communities in the debate, as not only were they affected, but they were also part of the solutions. In that regard, digitalization could also be an asset in terms of awareness-raising. Another key message was the need to do more to ensure that existing solutions and best practices were scaled up and implemented everywhere. Greater leadership was therefore necessary, with both countries and companies leading by example, including through the banning of hazardous pesticides and the funding of transitions and innovations towards new solutions and their implementation.

F. Ministerial and other high-level statements

110. Ministers and other high-level representatives of the following countries delivered statements: Austria; Belgium; Brazil; Ecuador; Eswatini; France; Georgia; Germany; Ghana; India; Japan; Jordan; Mexico; Netherlands (Kingdom of the); Poland; South Africa; Spain; Switzerland; United Kingdom; United Republic of Tanzania; United States.

111. High-level representatives of the following bodies also delivered statements: CropLife International; European Commission; ILO; International Council of Chemical Associations; International Trade Union Confederation (on behalf of the Labour group); Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; Ozone Secretariat; secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions; secretariat of the Minamata Convention on Mercury; United Nations Children’s Fund; UNDP; UNIDO; United Nations Institute for Training and Research; WHO.

112. All the representatives who spoke expressed their appreciation to the Government of Germany for hosting the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management and for its hospitality. Many representatives also thanked the secretariat for the successful organization of the session and all the stakeholders for their hard work and commitment in negotiating the new framework instrument governing the Strategic Approach beyond 2020.

113. Many representatives drew attention to the adverse consequences of the unsound management of chemicals, which were essential in so many aspects of life, for human health, the environment and

economic and social development. Several recalled that the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment had been recognized as a fundamental human right by the General Assembly of the United Nations, with some representatives advocating that human rights be the basis of any approach to chemicals management. The new framework instrument would serve to draw much-needed political and public attention to the issue of chemicals management. It would also provide a common vision and goals to guide stakeholders in taking concrete steps towards better protection of human health and environment, which was why, stressed one representative, it should be broad in scope.

114. Some representatives expressed support for particular elements of the approach going forward, such as extended producer responsibility; the promotion of a circular economy, focusing on recycling and reuse of waste; implementation of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals; and concerted efforts to address highly hazardous pesticides.

115. Many representatives gave examples of efforts at the national level to achieve sound chemicals management. Specific measures that had already been taken included a ban on the export, outside the region in which the country was situated, of certain chemicals that had already been banned within that region; the creation of a national commission on chemical safety; the provision of incentives for the use of integrated pest management techniques in new farming schemes; the adoption of a green industry plan and of other strategic plans and programmes on the sound management of chemicals and waste; the enactment of legislation on a variety of issues, including environmental management, industrial and consumer chemicals, pesticides and occupational health; the development of a range of policies and regulations, including in the mining sector; and the mainstreaming of green chemistry into academic curricula at various levels.

116. That said, several representatives stressed the central importance of multilateral action, collaboration and partnerships in the management of chemicals and waste, both when implementing the new instrument and in the wider context of chemicals management under multilateral environmental agreements and chemicals and waste-related agreements and other commitments. Many representatives were of the view that capacity-building, technical support and technology transfer were vital to the successful implementation of the new framework instrument. Some representatives also gave examples of measures that were being implemented in collaboration with United Nations entities and other partners bilaterally, including the hosting of and participation in workshops and other activities at the national and regional levels. Several representatives underscored the importance of the role played by the organizations participating in IOMC and urged them to continue their work, align their work programmes with the new instrument and provide the resources for its implementation. Several representatives of government and of other stakeholders reiterated their commitment to the Strategic Approach and to supporting developing countries in the implementation of the new framework.

117. Robust private sector engagement was deemed essential for the implementation of the framework. Industry and the private sector, along with academic establishments, were called on to contribute to urgently needed research and innovation that would lead to safe and sustainable chemicals and alternatives. Several representatives said that industry had a responsibility to develop new products that were better designed and better for the environment throughout their life cycle for a truly circular economy. One representative said that innovation and agricultural biotechnology could lead to lower costs and reduce the environmental impact of certain chemicals and pesticides.

118. Another representative said that social partners also had a central role to play in implementation of the new framework instrument, especially consumers and citizens, whose decisions both in purchasing and in the separation of waste were fundamental.

119. An ambitious mechanism that provided adequate, sustainable and predictable financing for the implementation of the new framework was considered indispensable by many. Some representatives said that the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities should guide its set-up. It was considered important that, in line with the responsible care approach or the polluter pays principle, any fund benefit from contributions from the chemicals industry. Several representatives underscored the crucial nature of the integrated approach to finance. Several representatives of donor governments announced continued or increased financial support for sound chemicals management, including through existing mechanisms. Some representatives talked of needing new solutions and business models to support green and digital transformations and to incentivize and accelerate green investments.

120. With a view to providing inspiration for the successful implementation of the new framework, one representative spoke about the holistic approach taken to the implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer. That approach included science-based policymaking, stakeholder partnerships, annual data reporting by all parties, a well-functioning

compliance regime and a dedicated financial mechanism that provided developing countries with financial assistance, institutional strengthening, capacity-building and technology transfer.

121. Other issues deemed important in the implementation of the framework instrument were the alignment of efforts with those intended to address two of the other crises facing the world – climate change and biodiversity loss; the improvement of chemicals governance; and the mainstreaming of gender perspectives and intergenerational considerations. One representative proposed that the implementation of decisions taken by the Conference be monitored, ideally by the General Assembly.

122. Underscoring the need to base decisions and actions in the implementation of the framework agreement on sound science, some representatives said that they had high hopes in that regard for the future science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution. One representative advocated support for the process to negotiate an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

123. In her closing statement, Ms. Lemke said that the text of the high-level declaration clearly identified the major challenges of the pollution crisis, outlined solutions and held all stakeholders accountable. The responsibility for the safe production and use of chemicals must be taken seriously, therefore efforts to tackle the risks posed by chemicals to people and the environment must be intensified. The adoption of the high-level declaration would signify an important step towards the safe production and use of chemicals, creating an opportunity to work together to solve global challenges, including supporting scientific, technological, economic and social innovations, to make the chemical sector sustainable. Following the current session of the Conference, United Nations entities and government institutions should communicate key goals to stakeholders with a view to mobilizing the necessary cooperation. Doing so would make it possible to ensure that sustainable chemicals and waste management were also integrated into the relevant sectors.

124. She announced that the group of friends of the President had agreed on a name for the new framework instrument: the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste. She also said that the Government of Germany would be doubling the amount that it had pledged the previous day to the new framework, to the sum of €20 million. Finally, she expressed the hope that a more specific focus on the importance of the chemicals and waste agenda would emerge at the upcoming session of the General Assembly of the United Nations, and that it would become the subject of a permanent agenda item in that forum. Such actions would increase political visibility and serve to monitor the implementation of the relevant goals, while sending a clear message to industry to continue developing innovations for sustainable chemistry.

VIII. Venue and dates of the next session of the international conference

125. Introducing the item, the President recalled that, under paragraph 76 of the newly adopted “Global Framework on Chemicals: For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste”, institutional arrangements provided for the Conference to meet every three years, unless the Conference decided otherwise, and she therefore suggested that the next session of the Conference be held in 2026 and, where appropriate, back-to-back with meetings of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations.

126. The Conference decided to invite offers from Governments to host its next session in 2026, as well as offers from relevant intergovernmental bodies wishing to hold a meeting back-to-back with that session. Furthermore, it authorized the Bureau to decide on the date and venue of the next session.

IX. Other matters

127. The Conference did not take up any other matters.

X. Adoption of the report of the session

128. The Conference adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report that had been circulated, on the understanding that the secretariat, under the direction of the Rapporteur, would be entrusted with its finalization.

XI. Closure of the session

129. The President declared the session closed at 10 a.m. on Saturday, 30 September 2023.

Annex I

List of resolutions

- Resolution V/1: Adoption of the Bonn Declaration for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste
- Annex I to resolution V/1: Bonn Declaration for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste
- Annex II to resolution V/1: Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste
- Resolution V/2: Vote of thanks
- Resolution V/3: Financial considerations
- Annex to resolution V/3: Terms of reference of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund for the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste
- Resolution V/4: Mainstreaming a gender perspective and promoting gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls in chemicals and waste management
- Resolution V/5: Emerging policy issues and issues of concern
- Resolution V/6: International cooperation and coordination
- Resolution V/7: Development of guidelines for national focal points
- Resolution V/8: Implementation arrangements
- Resolution V/9: Measurability structure
- Resolution V/10: Health surveillance systems for the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste to prevent and protect human health from chemical exposure
- Resolution V/11: Highly hazardous pesticides
- Resolution V/12: Programme of work and budget
- Annex to resolution V/12: Proposed activities and proposed budget

Resolution V/1: Adoption of the Bonn Declaration for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste

The Conference,

Recalling its resolution IV/4, in which it decided to initiate an intersessional process to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020,

Commending the outcome of the intersessional process, namely recommendations for a new global framework building on the unique voluntary multisectoral and multi-stakeholder nature of the Strategic Approach, embedding a programmatic approach to the implementation of a new global framework and enhancing engagement with stakeholders of key economic and industrial sectors that produce, commercialize and use chemicals and waste,

Welcoming with appreciation the outcomes of deliberations held by ministers, heads of delegation and representatives of civil society and the private sector assembled at the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, held in Bonn, Germany, from 25 to 29 September 2023,

Taking note of the Bonn Declaration for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, endorsed by ministers, heads of delegation and stakeholder leaders, which stresses the critical need to address the pollution crisis, the urgent need for global action in this regard, and their commitment to implementing the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, developed by the Conference,

1. *Welcomes and adopts* the Bonn Declaration for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, set out in annex I to the present resolution, as an integral part of the Framework;
2. *Adopts* the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, set out in annex II to the present resolution, as a new voluntary global framework in the field of international chemicals and waste management, as a successor to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management.

Annex I to resolution V/1

Bonn Declaration for a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste

We the ministers, heads of delegation, and stakeholder leaders, having gathered in Bonn, Germany, during the high-level segment of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, on 28 and 29 September 2023, to strengthen action to tackle the crisis of pollution from chemicals and waste, hereby declare the following:

1. Pollution is the world's largest risk factor for disease and premature death, with pollution from chemicals contributing to millions of those deaths, illnesses and disabilities each year.
2. The sound management of chemicals and waste is essential for achieving the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Chemical pollution jeopardizes sustainable development; the market and non-market cost of inaction could be as high as 10 per cent of the global gross domestic product.¹ Chemical pollution hinders the enjoyment of a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and of the right to a safe and healthy working environment. The impacts of chemical pollution disproportionately affect people living in poverty, informal workers, Indigenous Peoples and other groups in vulnerable situations. Chemicals often have impacts on human health, particularly that of women and children. Gender equality can support the sound management of chemicals and waste.
3. The crises of pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss are closely interrelated and need to be addressed in an integrated manner. The sound management of chemicals and waste will contribute significantly to the achievement of the climate objectives of the Paris Agreement and the goals and targets of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, and will thereby assure the long-term integrity of vital ecosystem services and their productive capacity.
4. At the same time, chemicals are, and will continue to be, an integral part of our everyday lives. Annual global chemical sales were projected to double between 2017 and 2030.² The impacts of chemical pollution are higher in countries with limited chemicals management capacity.
5. The global goal of achieving the sound management of chemicals by 2020 was not met, despite efforts made under several global agreements and guidelines. In 2006, the international community adopted the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (Strategic Approach) to strengthen the coherence and synergies between existing relevant international instruments, bodies and agencies. The Strategic Approach provided an international multisectoral and multi-stakeholder platform for voluntary partnerships and cooperative initiatives.
6. The sound management of chemicals and waste requires urgent action across all sectors of society and the economy. It should promote a just transition worldwide, with no one left behind, in line with the principles as set out in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, taking into account regional and national circumstances and capabilities in terms of availability of skills, technology, institutional capacity, and finance, as well as countries' respective sustainable development priorities.
7. We therefore endorse the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, which, together with this declaration, reflects our unwavering shared commitment to strengthening action towards the sound management of chemicals and waste, building on the lessons from and cooperative efforts under the Strategic Approach.
8. We will prevent exposure to harmful chemicals, phase out the most harmful ones, where appropriate, and enhance the safe management of such chemicals where they are needed. We will actively promote and support transitions to circular economies, including through the development of safe chemical and non-chemical alternatives and substitutes that protect health and the environment and lead to reduced waste, recycling free from harmful chemicals, and efficient resource utilization.
9. In accordance with United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/8 on sound management of chemicals and waste, we will strengthen our coordination and cooperation efforts at all levels to enhance coherence and complementarity in the chemicals and waste sectors, including

¹ *Global Chemicals Outlook II: From Legacies to Innovative Solutions: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (United Nations Environment Programme, 2019), p. 170.

² *Ibid.*

through integrating and mainstreaming the sound management of chemicals and waste in national development plans, domestic budgets and relevant sectoral policies.

10. We will actively promote research and innovation for the development of safe and sustainable chemicals, materials, products and processes, including solutions coming from Indigenous Peoples and traditional knowledge systems.

11. We are committed to strengthening capacity-building, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, and financial support, including from domestic sources, regional and international development cooperation and assistance, as well as from the private sector and philanthropy.

12. We are committed to the effective and efficient management of chemicals and waste through accountability, transparency, and access to information on chemicals relating to the health and safety of humans and the environment, and access to justice, as well as inclusive and meaningful participation that enables multisectoral and multi-stakeholder collaboration.

13. We will engage in the international efforts currently under way to establish a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, as well as to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment.

14. We invite United Nations entities and other relevant international organizations, including the International Labour Organization, the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and the World Trade Organization, to strengthen their role in generating reliable chemicals- and waste-related data, and to facilitate relevant action and collaboration based on scientific evidence. We further invite the governing bodies of those organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates, to strengthen their cooperation and coordination to support the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, and to integrate its goals into their programmes of work and budgets, as appropriate.

15. We consider the active leadership, commitment and partnership roles of the private sector and industry throughout chemical value and supply chains essential to the success of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste. We strongly encourage efforts to significantly strengthen investment by the private sector and industry in the implementation of robust life-cycle management, due diligence and resource efficiency policies and measures for a just transition, thereby creating business and growth opportunities.

16. We recognize that inclusive and meaningful participation of and progressive action by all relevant stakeholders across all sectors will be essential for achieving the strategic objectives and targets of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and all the Sustainable Development Goals.

17. We note General Assembly resolution 76/300 of 28 July 2022 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and its importance for the promotion of human well-being and the full enjoyment of all human rights.

18. We are determined to reach our vision of a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste for a safe, healthy and sustainable future. We therefore commit ourselves, in a spirit of solidarity and partnership, to implementing the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste to increase global ambition and action, including:

(a) Protecting and respecting human rights for the benefit of present and future generations;

(b) Developing and adopting the necessary national chemicals and waste frameworks, strategies, legislation and action plans to improve the management and control of pollution from chemicals and waste;

(c) Enhancing national action that supports the implementation, and complements the achievement, of other existing relevant chemicals- and waste-related United Nations multilateral agreements, standards and commitments;

(d) Enhancing the safe production of food, feed and fibre by preventing or, where prevention is not feasible, minimizing the adverse impacts of pesticides on health and the environment;

(e) Protecting human health, particularly the health of women and children, with special attention to early childhood;

- (f) Promoting decent, safe, healthy and sustainable work throughout value and supply chains;
- (g) Strengthening sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible long-term financing from all sources so that no one is left behind;
- (h) Strengthening the development and provision of safe and sustainable chemicals with reduced adverse impacts for downstream industry users, workers and consumers;
- (i) Enhancing cooperation to combat the continued illegal traffic of hazardous chemicals and waste.

Annex II to resolution V/1

**Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from
Chemicals and Waste**

Contents

I.	Introduction.....	29
II.	Vision.....	30
III.	Scope.....	30
IV.	Principles and approaches	30
	A. Knowledge and information	30
	B. Transparency.....	30
	C. Human rights	30
	D. Groups in vulnerable situations	30
	E. Gender equality.....	30
	F. Preventive approaches	31
	G. Just transition.....	31
	H. Collaboration and participation.....	31
V.	Strategic objectives and targets	31
	A. Strategic objectives	31
	B. Targets	31
VI.	Mechanisms to support implementation	33
	A. Implementation programmes	33
	B. National implementation.....	33
	C. Regional cooperation and coordination	34
	D. Enhanced sectoral and stakeholder engagement	34
VII.	Issues of concern.....	35
	A. Definition.....	35
	B. Nomination, selection and adoption of issues.....	35
	C. Mechanisms for implementation.....	36
VIII.	Capacity-building.....	36
IX.	Financial considerations.....	37
	A. Integrated approach to financing	37
	1. Mainstreaming	37
	2. Private-sector involvement	37
	3. Dedicated external financing	37
	B. Establishment of and engagement in multisectoral partnerships	38
X.	Institutional arrangements	38
	A. International Conference on the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste	38
	B. Bureau of the International Conference	39
	C. Secretariat	39
	1. Financing the secretariat	39
XI.	Taking stock of progress	40
XII.	Revising and updating the Framework.....	41
	Annex I.....	42
	I. Submission of information.....	42
	II. Nominations	42
	A. Nomination of issues	42
	B. Initial review and publication of nominations	42
	III. Workplans	43
	Annex II	44
	Annex III.....	46

I. Introduction

1. The sound management of chemicals and waste is essential for protecting human health and the environment. While progress in minimizing adverse impacts of chemicals and waste has been made, the global goal on chemicals management adopted at the World Summit on Sustainable Development (2002) – to achieve, by 2020, that chemicals would be used and produced in ways leading to the minimization of significant adverse effects on human health and the environment – was not achieved by 2020. More ambitious and urgent action by all stakeholders and sectors is required in order to protect present and future generations.

2. Chemicals play an important role as an integral part of our everyday lives in materials, articles and products globally. Their sound management is crucial for preventing and, where prevention is not feasible, minimizing adverse impacts on human health and the environment. The economic,¹ environmental and social benefits of action are indisputable, in particular to achieve the good health and well-being of all populations.

3. The *Global Chemicals Outlook II*² cautions that “business as usual” is not an option. The global chemical industry was estimated at US\$ 5 trillion in 2017 and its size is projected to double by 2030.³ Hazardous chemicals continue to be released in large quantities. Scientific evidence alerts us that pollution from chemicals and waste is not sustainable. Exposure to hazardous chemicals and waste throughout their supply chains and life cycles threatens human health and disproportionately impacts vulnerable and at-risk groups.⁴

4. The Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste builds on a unique multisectoral and multi-stakeholder approach. It strengthens collaboration and coordination among stakeholders to address the triple crisis for our common environment of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution, among other challenges. While its focus must be on building chemicals and waste management capacities in all countries, the intent of the Framework⁵ is to catalyse a transformational shift towards sustainable chemistry in the chemical and downstream sectors in a life-cycle approach, through guiding principles, clear strategic objectives, defined time-bound programmes and initiatives, and measurable targets.

5. The aim of the Framework is to prevent or, where prevention is not feasible, minimize harm from chemicals and waste to protect the environment and human health, including that of vulnerable groups and workers. The Framework is cross-sectoral and action-oriented, with strong governance and measurability structures that facilitate transparency and ownership of roles and responsibilities to assess progress and promote international standards. It supports innovation to provide better products that are safer and sustainable by design and advance sustainable consumption and production patterns, including through resource efficiency and circular economy approaches. Stakeholders include but are not limited to Governments, regional economic integration organizations, intergovernmental organizations, civil society, industries, businesses, the financial sector, development banks, academia, workers, retailers and individuals. Sectors are understood to include, but not be limited to, agriculture, environment, health, education, finance, development, construction and labour.

6. The Framework will contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and remain relevant for action beyond 2030. Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in all three dimensions (economic, social and environmental) is critical for creating the conditions necessary to fulfil the strategic objectives and targets of the Framework. The Framework complements other international agreements and arrangements and supports, but is not intended to duplicate, their implementation.

¹ According to the *Global Chemicals Outlook II: From Legacies to Innovative Solutions: Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (United Nations Environment Programme, 2019), “the benefits of action to minimize adverse impacts have been estimated in the high tens of billions of United States dollars annually” (p. vi).

² *Ibid.*, p. 17.

³ *Ibid.*, p. vi.

⁴ Workers; farmers; women, children and youth; Indigenous Peoples; and the elderly.

⁵ This and subsequent references to “the Framework” are understood to refer to the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste.

II. Vision

7. Our vision is a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste for a safe, healthy and sustainable future.

III. Scope

8. The scope of the Framework covers the life cycle of chemicals, including products and waste.⁶ The Framework promotes initiatives to enhance the sound management of chemicals and waste, takes due account of other chemicals and waste instruments that have been developed to date, and is flexible enough to take account of new instruments.

9. The Framework is multi-stakeholder and multisectoral in nature. It encompasses the involvement of all relevant sectors, including environment, health, agriculture, and labour, and stakeholders across the life cycle of chemicals at the local, national, regional, and global levels, as well as consideration of environmental and social aspects that are critical to the sound management of chemicals and waste.

IV. Principles and approaches

10. Implementation of the Framework should be guided by the principles and approaches in the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and, as appropriate, those in annex II to the Framework, as well as the following:

A. Knowledge and information

11. There is expertise in and among regions and strong support for the sharing of knowledge, including traditional knowledge and Indigenous knowledge systems shared on the basis of free, prior and informed consent. The Framework promotes coordination and access to information for informed and science-based decision-making on chemicals and waste management.

12. The implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels should be supported by the best available science.

B. Transparency

13. Transparency is essential for ensuring informed and legitimate decision-making processes. The Framework supports transparency of information in all aspects of implementation. The ability to participate in decision-making processes, the encouragement of public awareness, and access to relevant information on chemicals and their use as well as to environmental information are fundamental to the protection of human health and the environment.

14. Effective access to justice is important for people to have their voices heard, to exercise their rights and to challenge discrimination.

C. Human rights

15. The implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste contributes to the full enjoyment of human rights and human well-being and dignity.

D. Groups in vulnerable situations

16. Exposure to chemicals and waste often disproportionately affects people in vulnerable situations, including children, youth, the elderly, persons with disabilities, women, workers, migrants, farmers, people living in poverty, and Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The implementation of the Framework should take these groups into consideration when protecting human health and the environment.

E. Gender equality

17. Women are agents of change and are essential to addressing the issues of chemicals and waste. The Framework advances gender equality through women's full and equal participation and

⁶ For the purposes of the Framework, references to "chemicals and waste" and "life cycle of chemicals", as well as related references, should be understood to reflect this scope.

gender-inclusive approaches in all aspects of the implementation of the Framework, including in decision-making.

F. Preventive approaches

18. Prevention is the hallmark of all activities aimed at reducing risks from chemicals and waste. A hierarchical approach consists of prioritizing primary prevention in order to prevent and, where prevention is not feasible, minimize exposure to hazards that may cause disease and injury or adverse impacts to the environment.

19. Prevention of exposure to hazardous chemicals and their substitution contribute to intergenerational, social and environmental justice. The development and use of safe and sustainable chemicals are priorities for the sound management of chemicals and waste.

G. Just transition

20. The shift to sustainable production can have unintended impacts on communities, health and livelihoods. A just transition towards an environmentally sustainable economy with the sound management of chemicals and waste contributes to the goals of decent work for all, social inclusion, protection of human rights and the eradication of poverty.

H. Collaboration and participation

21. Networks, partnerships and mechanisms for technical cooperation are important for effective capacity-building, work on issues of common interest, and exchange of information, taking into account the circumstances of developing countries and their required capacity-building.

V. Strategic objectives and targets

22. The following strategic objectives and targets will guide stakeholders in their efforts at all levels to address the sound management of chemicals and waste.

23. Achieving these strategic objectives and targets requires the three components of the integrated approach to financing, including mainstreaming, private-sector involvement, and identifying and mobilizing dedicated external financing, which are equally important and mutually reinforcing. Strengthening sustainable, predictable, adequate and accessible long-term financing from all sources is also essential for achieving the objectives and targets of the Framework.

A. Strategic objectives

- A. Legal frameworks, institutional mechanisms and capacities are in place to support and achieve the safe and sustainable management of chemicals throughout their life cycle.
- B. Comprehensive and sufficient knowledge, data and information are generated, available and accessible to all to enable informed decisions and actions.
- C. Issues of concern are identified, prioritized and addressed.
- D. Safer alternatives and innovative and sustainable solutions in product value chains are in place so that benefits to human health and the environment are maximized and risks are prevented or, where prevention is not feasible, minimized.
- E. Enhanced implementation occurs through increased and effective resource mobilization, partnerships, cooperation, capacity-building, and integration into all relevant decision-making processes.

B. Targets

Target A1 – By 2030, Governments have adopted and are implementing and enforcing legal frameworks, and have established appropriate institutional capacity to prevent or, where prevention is not feasible, minimize adverse effects from chemicals and waste as appropriate for their national circumstances.

Target A2 – By 2030, intergovernmental stakeholders develop guidelines to support the needs of interested Governments and relevant stakeholders to implement effective chemicals and waste management strategies, building on, among other things, updates of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals toolbox for decision-making in chemicals management.

Target A3 – By 2030, companies implement measures identified to prevent or, where prevention is not feasible, minimize adverse effects from chemicals throughout their life cycle.

Target A4 – By 2030, stakeholders have effectively prevented all illegal trade and traffic of chemicals and waste.

Target A5 – By 2030, Governments work towards notifying, regulating or prohibiting the export of chemicals they have prohibited nationally, in line with their international obligations.

Target A6 – By 2030, all countries have access to poison centres equipped with essential capabilities to prevent and respond to poisonings, as well as access to training in chemical risk prevention and clinical toxicology.

Target A7 – By 2035, stakeholders have taken effective measures to phase out highly hazardous pesticides in agriculture where the risks have not been managed and where safer and affordable alternatives are available, and to promote transition to and make available those alternatives.

Target B1 – By 2035, comprehensive data and information on the properties of chemicals are generated and made available and accessible.

Target B2 – By 2030, stakeholders make available, to the extent possible, reliable information on chemicals in materials and products throughout the value chain.

Target B3 – By 2035, stakeholders generate data on the production of chemicals, including the use of chemicals in materials and products, in addition to data on emissions and releases of chemicals and waste to the environment, making these data available and publicly accessible.

Target B4 – By 2035, stakeholders apply appropriate guidelines, best available practices and standardized tools for hazard and risk assessment and chemical and waste management.

Target B5 – By 2030, educational, training and public awareness programmes on chemical safety, sustainability, safer alternatives and the benefits of reducing chemicals and waste risks have been developed and implemented, taking into consideration a gender-responsive approach.

Target B6 – By 2030, all Governments have implemented the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) in all relevant sectors as appropriate for their national circumstances.

Target B7 – By 2030, stakeholders generate, to the extent possible, and make available comprehensive and accessible monitoring and surveillance data and information on concentrations and potential exposure sources of chemicals in humans (disaggregated by sex, age, region, other demographic factors, and other relevant health determinants as feasible), other biota and environmental media.

Target C1 – Processes and programmes of work including timelines are established, adopted and implemented for identified issues of concern.

Target D1 – By 2030, companies consistently invest in and achieve innovations towards advancing sustainable chemistry and resource efficiency throughout the life cycle of chemicals.

Target D2 – By 2035, Governments implement policies that encourage production using safer alternatives and sustainable approaches throughout the life cycle, including best available techniques, green procurement and circular economy approaches.

Target D3 – By 2030, the private sector, including the finance sector, incorporates strategies and policies to implement the sound management of chemicals and waste in its finance approaches and business models and applies internationally recognized or equivalent reporting standards.

Target D4 – By 2030, relevant stakeholders give priority to sustainable solutions and safer alternatives to harmful substances in products and mixtures, including in consumer products, in their research and innovation programmes.

Target D5 – By 2030, Governments implement policies and programmes to increase support to safer and more sustainable agricultural practices, including agroecology, integrated pest management and the use of non-chemical alternatives, as appropriate.

Target D6 – By 2030, sustainable chemical and waste management strategies have been developed and implemented for major economic and industry sectors that identify priority chemicals of concern and standards and measures, such as the chemical footprint approach, to reduce their impact and, where feasible, their input along the value chain.

Target D7 – By 2030, stakeholders implement measures and strive to ensure effective occupational health and safety practices as well as environmental protection measures in all relevant sectors and throughout the supply chain.

Target E1 – By 2035, Governments have mainstreamed the sound management of chemicals and waste through implementation in all relevant sectoral plans, budgets and development plans and development assistance policies and programmes.

Target E2 – By 2030, partnerships and networks among sectors and stakeholders are strengthened to achieve the sound management of chemicals and waste.

Target E3 – Adequate, predictable and sustainable financial resources from all sources needed to support achieving the sound management of chemicals and waste are identified and mobilized in alignment with the vision, strategic objectives and targets of the Framework in all sectors by and for all stakeholders, including by leveraging private finance and promoting innovative and blended-finance schemes.

Target E4 – Funding gaps for the implementation of sound management of chemicals and waste are identified and considered for capacity-building, including through the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund.

Target E5 – By 2030, Governments have taken measures to put in place policies to internalize the costs of the sound management of chemicals and waste through different approaches.

Target E6 – By 2030, stakeholders identify and strengthen, as appropriate, synergies and linkages between chemicals and waste management and other key environmental, health and labour policies, such as those related to climate change solutions, biodiversity conservation, human rights protection, universal health coverage or primary health care.

VI. Mechanisms to support implementation

A. Implementation programmes

24. The International Conference on the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste (hereafter referred to as the International Conference) may adopt programmes to support the implementation of the Framework in order to achieve its strategic objectives, as presented in part V, “Strategic objectives and targets”. Such programmes should have their own focus and engage relevant sectors and stakeholders, and could include, in a flexible and dynamic format, the actions that the stakeholders intend to initiate or contribute to at the national, regional, and/or international levels in order to successfully meet the relevant targets identified in part V. Such programmes should also include any necessary mandates, terms of reference, workplans and/or other mechanisms, including actions to address identified issues of concern where relevant, to contribute to the success of the overall Framework and its strategic objectives.

25. Participation in each of the programmes of implementation should be open to all relevant stakeholders and sectors. The International Conference may establish ad hoc working groups to provide direction and momentum for the work, as well as to mobilize engagement. In addition to the actors specifically identified in the targets, the International Conference should invite the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and intergovernmental organizations to contribute actively to the implementation programmes to support the Framework and to further strengthen international cooperation and multisectoral engagement in the sound management of chemicals and waste.

B. National implementation

26. To sustain an integrated approach for the sound management of chemicals and waste, each Government should establish arrangements such as national plans of action for implementation on an interministerial or interinstitutional basis, in consultation with stakeholders, so that the interests of concerned national departments and stakeholders are represented and all relevant substantive areas are addressed.

27. Each Government should designate a national focal point to facilitate communication and coordination at the national, regional and international levels with respect to the Framework. The national focal point should, among other duties, disseminate information, develop a network or a mechanism for coordinating national views that includes consultations with all relevant sectors and

stakeholders, attend meetings, and be representative of the country's interministerial and/or inter-institutional arrangements, where such arrangements exist.

28. To support effective implementation, stronger efforts are required to ensure that national implementation involves the engagement of the appropriate range of stakeholders and sectors (e.g., the health, environmental, agriculture and labour sectors) to address national priorities.

29. Governments may develop a national plan of action or programme in consultation with other stakeholders to further implement efforts at the national level. Such a plan or programme may be used to support reporting under this part of the Framework on the progress made during the reporting period, keeping in mind that such plans or programmes are tailored to national actions and measures and should not duplicate existing arrangements or other reporting efforts.

30. All stakeholders should take action to promote progress in the implementation of the strategic objectives and targets of the Framework.

C. Regional cooperation and coordination

31. Priorities and capacities for implementation vary among regions according to their different economic and other circumstances.

32. International, regional and sectoral collaboration play integral roles in supporting the sound management of chemicals and waste at all levels, including among trading partners and regional organizations.

33. International and regional meetings and coordination mechanisms play an important role in enabling stakeholders in each region to exchange experiences and identify priority needs in relation to implementation, as well as to develop regional positions on key issues.

34. Regions are encouraged, where appropriate:

(a) To identify common priorities;

(b) To develop regional implementation plans for the sound management of chemicals and waste, and to consider regional or subregional approaches and projects;

(c) To appoint a regional focal point.

35. Regional focal points are to play a facilitative role in their regions, including undertaking activities determined at the regional level, such as chairing regional meetings, disseminating information of interest to focal points in their region, collecting views from national focal points on matters of interest to the region, identifying opportunities for regional cooperation, assisting in the flow of information and views from the region to its Bureau member, as appropriate, and reporting periodically on the outcomes of regional meetings and other regional activities.

D. Enhanced sectoral and stakeholder engagement

36. The involvement and commitment of all relevant sectors and stakeholders at the local, national, regional and international levels is important for the sound management of chemicals throughout their life cycle.

37. At the national level, Governments, as appropriate, should undertake actions to build or improve regulatory and non-regulatory frameworks and institutional structures and capacity for multisectoral coherence.

38. Relevant regional conventions, programmes, centres, bodies and processes, such as ministerial forums on health, labour and environmental issues, are invited to support and augment such national efforts, fostering coordination and cooperation.

39. The Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and intergovernmental organizations are invited to contribute actively to the implementation of the Framework and to continue to promote broad engagement and coordination of the policies, work programmes and activities of relevant intergovernmental organizations with a view to further strengthening international cooperation and multisectoral engagement in the sound management of chemicals and waste.

40. The enhanced efforts of all relevant sectors and stakeholders should include increased or improved (a) actions by members of individual sectors and stakeholders, (b) collaboration between and among key sectoral and stakeholder groups, (c) multi-stakeholder and multisectoral dialogue

throughout the implementation of the Framework, and (d) contributions, as appropriate, to achieve the shared vision as well as the objective and targets of the Framework.

41. All stakeholders, especially the public sector, including health and care services, are invited to enhance the contribution to the sound management of chemicals and waste through safe and sustainable chemicals and waste policies, contracts and practices in workplaces and communities, and through procurement policies that prioritize protective practices.

42. The involvement of industry and the private sector throughout the value chain needs to be significantly enhanced under the Framework at all levels. The roles and responsibilities of industry and the private sector throughout the value chain in implementing the sound management of chemicals and waste offer a strong basis for enhanced involvement and action and should be clearly identified and developed.

43. Industry and the private sector should conduct due diligence to ensure that international standards, including International Labour Organization standards, on health and safety in the management of chemicals and waste are put in place throughout their value chains in order to protect health and respect human rights.

44. Stakeholders are invited to set out their future actions to implement the Framework in workplans, road maps, milestones, pledges or other appropriate commitments, which should contain a clear definition of the roles and responsibilities of the sector and/or stakeholder in question and of the intended implementation mechanism that contributes to the achievement of the objectives and targets, as well as opportunities for collaboration or joint actions.

45. The health sector has a critical role and unique expertise to contribute to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to the promotion of health and well-being. Stakeholders are encouraged to use the World Health Organization *Chemicals Road Map*, as appropriate, as a tool to facilitate cross-sectoral collaboration and to identify concrete actions that the health sector can contribute towards the achievement of the strategic objectives of the Framework.

46. The sound management of chemicals and waste in the world of work is essential for protecting workers, communities and the environment. A safe and healthy working environment is a fundamental principle and right at work; therefore, all workers should be protected from hazardous chemicals and waste along the entire supply chain. Workplace measures and policies, including the ratification and implementation of relevant International Labour Organization standards, should be integrated in chemicals and waste management efforts.

VII. Issues of concern

A. Definition

47. An issue of concern is an issue involving any phase in the life cycle of chemicals that has not yet been generally recognized, is insufficiently addressed, or arises as a potential concern from the current level of scientific information, and that may have adverse effects on human health and/or the environment that would benefit from international action.

B. Nomination, selection and adoption of issues

48. To nominate an issue, the nominating stakeholder should submit the information specified in part 1 of annex I to the Framework.

49. In accordance with part II of annex I, nominations will be reviewed by the secretariat and circulated to all stakeholders.

50. Nominations will be considered by the International Conference at its regular meetings.

51. The International Conference should:

(a) Select and adopt issues of concern by a resolution of the International Conference. If several issues are nominated, the International Conference, when considering nominations, may choose to prioritize the issues that are most important for protecting human health and the environment, and regarding which the most progress can be made under the Framework, taking into account the precautionary approach, as appropriate;

(b) Establish an ad hoc multi-stakeholder working group for each issue, unless the International Conference decides otherwise. The International Conference should consider whether specific sectoral engagement should be encouraged and whether organizations should be identified

from among the participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, national Governments, other organizations, and/or contributing stakeholders to lead the work (see annex I, part I, para. 1 (i));

(c) Identify, where possible, specific activities or actions and related timelines for each issue adopted that the International Conference believes likely to contribute to the success of the work in relation to the issue and the Framework, based on the information submitted, and recommend consideration of such activities or actions and related timelines to the ad hoc multi-stakeholder working group;

(d) Carefully consider, when identifying a proposed timeline, the information provided in the submission of information, in particular in any proposed workplan (see annex I, part I, para. 1 (h)).

52. The ad hoc multi-stakeholder working groups are to:

(a) Develop a workplan, if one is not already available, for achieving the proposed timelines for action agreed to by the International Conference. Such a workplan should include targets and indicators specific to each issue in order to allow results to be assessed. If the submitted information includes a workplan, the ad hoc multi-stakeholder working groups may, as needed, further refine the workplan;

(b) Encourage effective implementation of the workplan by stakeholders;

(c) Coordinate, as appropriate, with other relevant bodies to maximize efforts to achieve the proposed timelines for action established by the International Conference and to avoid duplication of work;

(d) Report on progress to the International Conference at regular intervals, taking into account any targets or indicators included in the workplan;

(e) Make recommendations, as needed, for further consideration by the International Conference.

C. Mechanisms for implementation

53. Workplans to guide implementation of issues of concern are addressed in part III of annex I.

54. The ad hoc multi-stakeholder working groups should, with support from the secretariat, oversee monitoring and reporting back from stakeholders and encourage implementation of the workplan through regular progress reports to meetings of the International Conference and periodic reviews during intersessional periods, as specified in the workplan or as requested by the International Conference.

55. The International Conference may determine the need for further work on an issue on the basis of a full explanation of the rationale and recommendations on a way forward, including options on how to reach the defined targets for the issue of concern, provided by the ad hoc multi-stakeholder working group, with support from the secretariat, following the evaluation of progress with the activities carried out in accordance with the workplan for the issue of concern.

56. The International Conference may decide to conclude work on a particular issue.

VIII. Capacity-building

57. Increased mobilization of resources, in accordance with the integrated approach to financing, is critical to capacity-building, including scientific and technical cooperation, and to support for technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, which are both essential for the successful implementation of the Framework and the achievement of its vision, strategic objectives and targets. All stakeholders should be equipped with the necessary skills, knowledge and resources to implement the Framework.

58. Stakeholders cooperate to provide, within the scope of their respective capabilities, timely and appropriate support for these activities. Support may be delivered through regional, subregional and national arrangements, implementation programmes, and other multilateral and bilateral means, including alliances, partnerships, voluntary peer reviews and other innovative approaches, especially with the private sector.

59. Where possible, stakeholders align activities with those undertaken by other multilateral environmental agreements, multilateral development banks and other institutions to increase the

effectiveness of cooperation, including with efforts to address climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, health, labour, agriculture and human rights.

60. The International Conference will develop a strategy for capacity-building and supporting technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, recognizing that the industries are profitable and production is growing worldwide. The strategy will include capacity-building tools and other initiatives.

61. Thereafter, the International Conference will, on a regular basis:

(a) Assess the impact and improve the effectiveness of the strategy;

(b) Consider the capacity-building needs of all stakeholders and make any necessary recommendations.

IX. Financial considerations

62. Adequate, predictable and sustainable financing, technical assistance, capacity-building and technology transfer on mutually agreed terms are essential for achieving the objectives and targets of the Framework. The participation of representatives of all involved stakeholders and sectors at the national, regional and international levels should be ensured in the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste.

A. Integrated approach to financing

63. All three components of the integrated approach to financing – mainstreaming, private-sector involvement and dedicated external finance – are equally important and mutually reinforcing.

64. Stakeholders should take steps to implement the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste, including, in particular, making tangible progress with respect to the three components.

1. Mainstreaming

65. Mainstreaming is key for ensuring that needs are met nationally and that support through national budgets, bilateral development assistance plans, and multilateral assistance framework processes is mobilized.

66. International, regional and national financial institutions and their governing bodies, as well as the private sector and investors, are strongly encouraged to expressly integrate sound management of chemicals and waste activities in the scope of activities that they fund.

2. Private-sector involvement

67. The private sector, throughout the value chain, should increase its efforts to internalize costs, as well as increase its financial and non-financial contributions to the implementation of the sound management of chemicals and waste, in order to avoid or, where that is not possible, reduce their risks and mitigate their adverse impacts on the environment and human health.

68. The private sector should support the Framework objectives and targets of sound management of chemicals and waste by providing contributions, including enforcement of the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) globally, data generation, data sharing, partnerships and capacity-building. The private sector should further advance the sound management of chemicals and waste through commitments to innovation, training, safety and sustainability initiatives, as well as compliance with chemicals- and waste-related regulatory requirements, and including relevant elements of occupational safety and health in jurisdictions around the globe.

3. Dedicated external financing

69. Stakeholders should strengthen the component of dedicated external financing, including by leveraging private finance, promoting innovative and blended finance, considering strategies for increasing resources, and encouraging the private sector to invest in the sound management of chemicals and waste.

70. Stakeholders decide to establish a Global Framework on Chemicals Fund to support Framework stakeholders in the implementation of the Framework. The Fund will contain a voluntary, time-limited trust fund and may include multilateral, bilateral and private-sector sources. The Fund will be administered by the United Nations Environment Programme.

71. Inviting Governments and other stakeholders to provide resources to enable the secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals to fulfil the tasks set out in paragraph 70 above, including by:

- (a) Inviting the United Nations Environment Programme to arrange for the transfer of the funds remaining in the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund to initiate the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund;
- (b) Inviting all countries and regional economic integration organizations to contribute;
- (c) Inviting the private sector, including industry, foundations and other non-governmental organizations, to also contribute.

B. Establishment of and engagement in multisectoral partnerships

72. Stakeholders are encouraged to create and implement transparent and accountable multisectoral partnerships. Stakeholders are also encouraged to explore funding opportunities by engaging mechanisms in all sectors.

X. Institutional arrangements

A. International Conference on the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste

73. With respect to the Framework and its implementation, the functions of the International Conference will be:

- (a) To adopt its rules of procedure;
- (b) To oversee implementation and review progress with a view to addressing gaps at the national, regional and international levels and taking appropriate action;
- (c) To promote the implementation of existing international instruments and programmes relating to chemicals and waste;
- (d) To promote cooperation and coordination among international instruments and programmes relating to chemicals and waste;
- (e) To promote the strengthening of national chemicals and waste management capacities;
- (f) To promote, enhance and support participation by and interaction among stakeholders and sectors in the International Conference and in the programme of work;
- (g) To promote awareness, including based on scientific information, regarding new developments and trends, and to identify and communicate links to sustainable development;
- (h) To set priorities for the programme of work informed by scientific information;
- (i) To consider relevant outcomes of the work of the science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution to be established under United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/8, and to invite, as appropriate, the panel to provide scientific information and assessments, and input on specific issues of concern adopted by the International Conference;
- (j) To determine processes for guiding appropriate science-based action on issues of concern;
- (k) To provide guidance to the secretariat and to stakeholders on implementation;
- (l) To establish subsidiary bodies as it deems necessary in accordance with its rules of procedure;
- (m) To promote the implementation of the elements of the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and waste and make recommendations to address relevant issues;
- (n) To receive reports from all relevant stakeholders on their implementation of the Framework and to assess, on the basis of the information provided, the overall progress of implementation and disseminate such information, as appropriate;
- (o) To evaluate the implementation of activities, review progress against the objectives and targets, and update the programme of work as appropriate with a view to achieving the vision;

(p) To decide to convene, as appropriate, a high-level segment for multisectoral and multi-stakeholder discussion;

(q) To initiate the process of updating or revising the Framework, as appropriate.

74. The International Conference should invite stakeholders from the environment, health, labour, industry and agriculture sectors involved in chemicals management and safety issues to participate in the meeting.

75. The International Conference should design its agenda in a manner that allows meaningful discussions of priorities, gaps and implementation issues faced by different sectors.

76. The International Conference will meet every third year, unless it decides otherwise.

77. When appropriate, sessions of the International Conference should be held back to back with meetings of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations in order to enhance synergies and cost-effectiveness.

B. Bureau of the International Conference

78. The International Conference should have a Bureau in accordance with its rules of procedure. The Bureau should reflect the multi-stakeholder and multisectoral nature of the Framework and should reflect due regard to the principle of equitable geographical representation and to gender balance, as well as to representation from different sectors among government representatives, subject to the relevant rules of procedure.

C. Secretariat

79. The functions performed by the secretariat under the guidance of the International Conference will be:

(a) To promote the establishment and maintenance of a network of stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels;

(b) To promote and facilitate the implementation of the Framework, including capacity-building and technical assistance;

(c) To continue to strengthen working relationships with participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and their networks, other United Nations bodies, and the secretariats of relevant international agreements in order to draw upon their sectoral expertise;

(d) To facilitate and promote the exchange of relevant scientific and technical information, including the development and dissemination of guidance materials to support stakeholder implementation, and to provide information clearing-house services;

(e) To facilitate the meetings and intersessional work of the International Conference as well as regional meetings, and to disseminate the reports and recommendations of the International Conference, including to relevant global and regional organizations and institutions;

(f) To support the functioning of technical, policy and scientific subsidiary and ad hoc expert bodies established by the International Conference;

(g) To promote, enhance and support the participation of all sectors and stakeholders in the International Conference and the programme of work, including in meetings of the international conference and regional meetings;

(h) To report to the International Conference on implementation by all stakeholders of the Framework.

1. Financing the secretariat

80. A core budget for the secretariat of the Framework is identified covering staff costs for non-seconded staff, office costs and travel costs, and the costs of conference services and meetings. The core budget is financed by voluntary contributions from Governments, the private sector, and all other stakeholders.

81. Before the start of each calendar year the secretariat invites each Government and other stakeholder groups, through their respective focal points, to make a voluntary financial contribution.

82. All stakeholders support the work of the secretariat by voluntarily contributing financial and in-kind resources, as appropriate, including but not limited to:

- (a) Voluntary financial contributions;
- (b) In-kind resources, such as secondment, as appropriate, and sector-related work by the secretariat;
- (c) Hosting of meetings, sector participation at meetings, and support for the production and dissemination of outputs of the Framework.

83. Where possible, the contributions are defined at the beginning of the budget cycle by an agreement between the respective organization and the secretariat.

XI. Taking stock of progress

84. All stakeholders are invited to report to the International Conference, through the secretariat, on implementation efforts and progress towards indicators and milestones, and on contributions to implement the Framework in meeting the strategic objectives and their associated targets towards the vision. By doing so, stakeholders can identify successful outcomes, as well as any gaps and/or challenges; drive opportunities for scaling up and improvement; share information; assess the need for enhanced implementation efforts; and, if necessary, further prioritize their engagement and activities.

85. Reporting processes should occur regularly and sufficiently often, as decided by the International Conference, to provide for the effective assessment of progress under the Framework in meeting its vision.

86. All stakeholders are encouraged to provide information related to their implementation efforts. Such information should be provided through an organized, transparent and accessible online tool, consistent with any guidance or template provided by the International Conference. Such information may also include reporting on voluntary commitments as well as on pledges and/or similar activities.

87. The secretariat should prepare a compilation of the reports received for presentation to the International Conference and to the public in a user-friendly format that helps visualize progress under the Framework.

88. The International Conference may invite the sharing of data and information from complementary reporting processes of relevant agreements, initiatives and the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and other organizations, in order to take into consideration, as appropriate, any linkages with such agreements, initiatives and organizations and to minimize the reporting burden for all stakeholders, while avoiding duplication of efforts.

89. Responsible organizations may be invited by the International Conference to analyse progress with regard to targets and strategic objectives through impact indicators of the Framework, and to report thereon to the International Conference. The secretariat may invite stakeholders to provide supplementary information and to collate relevant information and forward it to responsible organizations for evaluation. Stakeholders are encouraged to provide supplementary information to the secretariat when invited to do so.

90. The overall effectiveness of the Framework should be independently evaluated in accordance with terms of reference to be agreed on by the International Conference. This overall evaluation should take place as decided by the International Conference.

91. A measurability structure provided in annex III to the Framework illustrates the different categories of indicators that may be used to track progress under and the impact of the Framework, including but not limited to:

- (a) High-level indicators for measuring progress towards the vision of the Framework in relation to impacts of chemicals and waste on human health and on the environment:
 - (i) The global burden of disease attributable to chemicals and waste;
 - (ii) The global environmental burden attributable to chemicals and waste;
- (b) Headline indicators, when identified, to measure impact against the strategic objectives;
- (c) Process indicators that measure actions taken and impact indicators that measure results achieved against the targets.

XII. Revising and updating the Framework

92. The International Conference may consider initiating a process to update or revise the Framework after taking into account the assessment of the information and data called for from all stakeholders in part XI, “Taking stock of progress”, and the results of the periodic evaluations called for by the International Conference to review the overall effectiveness of the Framework.

93. Such updates or revisions may be proposed by any Government and will require formal adoption by the International Conference. The text of any proposed update or revision shall be communicated to all stakeholders and focal points by the secretariat at least six months in advance of the session of the International Conference.

Annex I

Issues of concern

I. Submission of information

1. When an issue is nominated, the following information should be provided:
 - (a) Why the Framework is best placed to advance the issue;
 - (b) Impacts on human health and/or the environment related to the issue, taking into account vulnerable and at-risk populations (especially women, children, youth and workers), biodiversity, ecosystems and available toxicological, ecotoxicological, environmental fate and behaviour, and exposure data;
 - (c) How the issue is integral to the vision of the Framework, is ongoing, and needs to be addressed in order to enhance basic chemicals and waste management and/or advance the implementation of innovative and sustainable solutions, in particular taking into account specific national circumstances;
 - (d) How addressing the issue can assist countries to meet the Sustainable Development Goals;
 - (e) The extent to which the issue is of a cross-cutting nature, including at the sectoral level;
 - (f) The extent to which the issue is being addressed by other bodies, at the regional or international level, and how the proposed action to address the issue is related to, complements or does not duplicate such efforts;
 - (g) Summary of existing knowledge, relevant past activities, scientific uncertainties, and gaps in understanding and/or action;
 - (h) A workplan, including potential targets, indicators and timelines for implementation of the proposed issue;
 - (i) Identification of potential lead organization(s) and of opportunities for multi-stakeholder and multisectoral engagement.

II. Nominations

A. Nomination of issues

2. The process for nominating issues is open to any stakeholder. The nomination procedure will be made available on the Framework website.
3. To promote communication about the nomination:
 - (a) Nominations should be submitted to the secretariat no later than six months prior to a meeting of the International Conference;
 - (b) Nominations should be communicated by the secretariat to all stakeholders, including all focal points;
 - (c) Regions may wish to add the topic of nominations to the agendas of relevant regional meetings.

B. Initial review and publication of nominations

4. The secretariat will check nominations for completeness with the aim of assisting proponents with their nominations, if possible. Proponents should be requested to provide missing or additional information. The secretariat will compile a list of nominations, accompanied by a summary of information from the submission. Similar nominations will be clustered so that similar issues can be considered together, as appropriate and relevant.
5. The secretariat will invite all stakeholders to provide comments on the nominations prior to the session of the International Conference at which they will be considered. Comments received from stakeholders will be made publicly available by the secretariat.

6. The proponents of an issue will have an opportunity to revise their nomination to take into account comments or to clarify information provided, and to work with other proponents to consolidate nominations that may be similar or complementary.

7. The secretariat will make available the final nominations as soon as possible and will invite further comments on those nominations for consideration at the International Conference. Any comments should be made available by the secretariat six weeks in advance of the International Conference.

III. Workplans

8. Implementation of actions to address issues is guided by a workplan with clear timelines and milestones.

9. All stakeholders are encouraged to take the necessary actions and/or provide funding and necessary assistance towards the implementation of the workplan.

Annex II

Principles and approaches

- (a) Declaration of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment (Stockholm Declaration) (1972), in particular principle 22;¹
- (b) Agenda 21 (1992), in particular chapters 6, 8, 19 and 20;²
- (c) Rio Declaration on Environment and Development (1992);³
- (d) Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995);⁴
- (e) Bahia Declaration on Chemical Safety (2000);⁵
- (f) United Nations Millennium Declaration (2000);⁶
- (g) Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development (Johannesburg Plan of Implementation) (2002);⁷
- (h) Dubai Declaration on International Chemicals Management (2006);⁸
- (i) World Health Organization, *Principles for Evaluating Health Risks in Children Associated with Exposure to Chemicals*, (2006);⁹
- (j) United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007);¹⁰
- (k) *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework* (2011);¹¹
- (l) “The future we want” (2012);¹²
- (m) *International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management* (2014);¹³
- (n) Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development (2015);¹⁴

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Human Environment, Stockholm, 5–16 June 1972* (A/CONF.48/14/Rev.1), part one, chap. I.

² *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex II.

³ *Report of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, Rio de Janeiro, 3–14 June 1992, vol. I, Resolutions Adopted by the Conference* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.93.I.8 and corrigendum), resolution 1, annex I.

⁴ *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4–15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

⁵ Available at <https://www.who.int/publications/m/item/bahia-declaration-on-chemical-safety>.

⁶ General Assembly resolution 55/2.

⁷ *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.

⁸ *Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management: Texts and Resolutions of the International Conference on Chemicals Management* (United Nations Environment Programme, 2006). Available at https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/SAICM_publication_ENG.pdf.

⁹ Available at https://iris.who.int/bitstream/handle/10665/43604/924157237X_eng.pdf?sequence=1.

¹⁰ General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

¹¹ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights: Implementing the United Nations “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework* (New York and Geneva, 2011).

¹² Outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, from 20 to 22 June 2012. General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

¹³ Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and World Health Organization, *The International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management* (2014).

¹⁴ General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

- (o) International Labour Organization, *Guidelines for a Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies for All* (2015);¹⁵
- (p) Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2015);¹⁶
- (q) *Women's Empowerment and the Link to Sustainable Development* (agreed conclusions of the sixtieth session of the Commission on the Status of Women) (2016);¹⁷
- (r) International Labour Organization, *Tripartite Declaration of Principles Concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy* (2022);
- (s) World Health Organization, *Chemicals Road Map* (2017);¹⁸
- (t) General Assembly resolution 76/300 of 28 July 2022 on the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment (2022);
- (u) The following agreements, where applicable:
 - (i) Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (1979);¹⁹
 - (ii) Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer (1989);²⁰
 - (iii) International Labour Organization Chemicals Convention (No. 170) (1990);
 - (iv) Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and Their Disposal (1992);²¹
 - (v) International Labour Organization Prevention of Major Industrial Accidents Convention (No. 174) (1993);
 - (vi) Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade (2004);²²
 - (vii) Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants (2004);²³
 - (viii) International Health Regulations (2005);²⁴
 - (ix) Minamata Convention on Mercury (2017);²⁵
 - (x) All International Labour Organization Fundamental Conventions, including the Occupational Safety and Health Convention (No. 155) (1981) and the Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention (No. 187) (2006), and all other relevant international labour standards pertaining to health and safety in the area of chemicals and waste.

¹⁵ International Labour Organization, *Guidelines for a Just Transition towards Environmentally Sustainable Economies and Societies for All* (2015).

¹⁶ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

¹⁷ Available at

<https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/CSW/60/CSW60%20Agreed%20Conclusions%20Conclusions%20EN.pdf>.

¹⁸ World Health Organization, *Chemicals Road Map* (2017).

¹⁹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1249, no. 20378.

²⁰ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1522, no. 26369.

²¹ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1673, no. 28911.

²² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2244, no. 39973.

²³ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2256, no. 40214.

²⁴ World Health Organization, document WHA58/2005/REC/1, resolution 58.3, annex.

²⁵ United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 3202, no. 54669.

Annex III

Measurability structure

1. The measurability structure and indicators address all the components of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, in particular the strategic objectives and targets in the table below. The structure facilitates the reporting and monitoring of progress and impact in the implementation of the Framework and contributes to assessing progress towards the vision.
2. The measurability structure is composed of the following types of indicators for assessing the implementation of the Framework:
 - (a) High-level indicators to measure progress towards the vision, in relation to the impacts of chemicals and waste on human health and on the environment;
 - (b) Headline indicators, when identified, to measure impact against the strategic objectives;
 - (c) Process indicators that measure actions taken and impact indicators that measure results achieved against the targets;
 - (d) Other indicators, as decided.
3. All indicators in the measurability structure will be either from a list of readily available existing indicators or new indicators. They will meet the following criteria:
 - (a) Relevance and/or meaningfulness to the Framework;
 - (b) Availability of data to create a baseline and to assess progress;
 - (c) Have a designated custodian;
 - (d) Allow for regular updating to help ensure sustainability of the measurement;
 - (e) Allow for easy access to data and enable stakeholder participation in data collection;
 - (f) Data comparability through standardized methodologies.

Measurability structure for tracking progress in the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste

<i>Vision</i>	<i>Our vision is a planet free of harm from chemicals and waste for a safe, healthy and sustainable future</i>				
High-level indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global burden of disease attributable to chemicals and waste • Global environmental burden attributable to chemicals and waste 				
Strategic objectives	A Legal frameworks, institutional mechanisms and capacities are in place to support and achieve the safe and sustainable management of chemicals throughout their life cycle.	B Comprehensive and sufficient knowledge, data and information are generated, available and accessible to all to enable informed decisions and actions.	C Issues of concern are identified, prioritized and addressed.	D Safer alternatives and innovative and sustainable solutions in product value chains are in place so that benefits to human health and the environment are maximized and risks are prevented or, where prevention is not feasible, minimized.	E Enhanced implementation occurs through increased and effective resource mobilization, partnerships, cooperation, capacity-building, and integration into all relevant decision-making processes.
Headline indicators	<i>(to be determined)</i>	<i>(to be determined)</i>	<i>(to be determined)</i>	<i>(to be determined)</i>	<i>(to be determined)</i>
Targets	A targets	B targets	C targets	D targets	E targets
Indicators for tracking progress in reaching targets^a	<i>(to be determined)</i>	<i>(to be determined)</i>	<i>(to be determined)</i>	<i>(to be determined)</i>	<i>(to be determined)</i>

^a As relevant, indicators may be used to track progress for multiple targets and may qualify as headline indicators for measuring the achievement of strategic objectives.

Resolution V/2: Vote of thanks

The Conference,

Having met in Bonn, Germany, from 25 to 29 September 2023, at the gracious invitation of the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany,

Convinced that the efforts made by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and by the authorities and city of Bonn in providing facilities, premises and other resources contributed significantly to the smooth and successful conduct of the proceedings,

Deeply appreciative of the courtesy and hospitality extended by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the city of Bonn to the governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental participants and the staff members of the secretariat of the United Nations Environment Programme attending the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management,

1. *Expresses its sincere gratitude* to the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany and the city of Bonn and, through them, to the people of the Federal Republic of Germany for the cordial welcome which they accorded to the Conference, and in particular to those associated with the work of the Conference for their contribution to the success of the Conference;

2. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Governments of Brazil, Sweden, Uruguay, Thailand, Romania and Kenya for hosting meetings under the intersessional process, and to all other donor Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders for contributing financial and in-kind support to the successful outcome of the intersessional process and the Conference;

3. *Voices its appreciation* to the co-chairs and co-facilitators of the intersessional process and to all the stakeholders of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management that contributed to the work of the intersessional process leading to the development of recommendations for the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste through shared dedication and cooperation towards achieving our common aim of protecting human health and the environment;

4. *Expresses appreciation* for the support of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme for the Strategic Approach process and its activities.

Resolution V/3: Financial considerations

The Conference,

Having incorporated financial considerations within the text of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste,

1. *Welcomes* the prompt launching of the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste;
2. *Requests* the secretariat, in collaboration with the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and all relevant stakeholders, to assess the existing financial and investment flows as well as financial needs associated with the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, including information on domestic accounting. This assessment could inform stakeholders' discussions at the next session of the Conference;
3. *Welcomes* the financial and non-financial contributions of the private sector, including and beyond the chemical industry, to the sound management of chemicals and waste to date and encourages their commitment to achieving the objectives of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste;
4. *Invites* relevant participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to update the existing costs of inaction report,¹ taking into account quality-assured new research and the latest information relating to economic and social costs of unsound management of chemicals and waste at the national, regional and international levels;

Global Environment Facility

5. *Welcomes with appreciation* the robust increases in the chemicals and waste focal area made by donors to the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, including to support progress towards the objectives of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste;
6. *Encourages* the Global Environment Facility to continue to assist recipient countries in accessing resources for the sound management of chemicals and waste in a timely and efficient manner, including through reporting on projects that support the sound management of chemicals and waste at meetings of the Facility's Council through their relations with conventions and other institutions' agenda items;
7. *Encourages* Governments, as part of the ninth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, to duly consider ways to increase the financial resources allocated for the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste;

Special Programme

8. *Welcomes with appreciation* the decision taken by the United Nations Environment Assembly at its fifth session, in its resolution 5/7, to extend the duration of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management for a period of five years, and to include the Strategic Approach and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 in the Special Programme;
9. *Encourages* States members of the United Nations Environment Assembly to consider reviewing the terms of reference of the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for the implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste at its next session, taking into consideration the need for the implementation of the Framework;

¹ United Nations Environment Programme, *Costs of Inaction on the Sound Management of Chemicals* (2013). Available at [-Costs of inaction on the sound management of chemicals-2013Report_Cost_of_Inaction_Feb2013.pdf \(unep.org\)](#).

Global Framework on Chemicals Fund

10. *Decides* to establish a Global Framework on Chemicals Fund for supporting the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, building on the outcomes of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management;

11. *Also decides* to adopt the terms of reference of the Fund, as set out in the annex to the present resolution, on a provisional basis;

12. *Decides* that the objective of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund is to support implementation activities in developing countries, least developed countries, small island developing States and countries with economies in transition;

13. *Calls* for the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund to include a United Nations Environment Programme trust fund and multilateral, bilateral and other forms of cooperation;

14. *Invites* Governments in a position to do so; regional economic integration organizations; intergovernmental organizations; the private sector, including industry; foundations and non-governmental organizations; and other stakeholders to contribute to the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund;

15. *Adopts* the strategic priorities for the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund as set out in the annex to the present resolution;

16. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to establish a time-limited voluntary trust fund to provide resources to support the objectives of the Fund in accordance with the terms of reference set out in the annex to the present resolution;

17. *Decides* that at its next session the Conference of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste will review the provisionally adopted terms of reference of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund, taking into account the assessment referred to in paragraph 2 above;

18. *Invites* Governments in a position to do so; regional economic integration organizations; the private sector, including industry; foundations and non-governmental organizations; and other stakeholders to contribute to the voluntary trust fund;

19. *Decides* to establish the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund Executive Board, consisting of two national Government representatives of each United Nations region and representatives of all the bilateral and multilateral donors and other contributors to the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund;

20. *Requests* the secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste to facilitate meetings of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund Executive Board;

21. *Decides* that, at each session of the Conference, two national Government representatives of each United Nations region will be appointed to the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund Executive Board for the following intersessional period;

22. *Welcomes* the contributions to the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund transferred from the Quick Start Programme Trust Fund and those already offered by the Governments of Germany and France.

Annex to resolution V/3

Terms of reference of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund for the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste

A. Administering organization

1. The Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme is invited to establish and manage a trust fund to support the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste. The Framework secretariat will provide administrative support to the trust fund. This trust fund to support the Global Framework for Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm

from Chemicals and Waste shall be separate from the existing trust fund used for the expenses of the Framework secretariat and the intergovernmental process.

B. Objective

2. The trust fund will provide resources to support the objective and strategic priorities of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste.

C. Time limit

3. The trust fund will be open to receive voluntary contributions for five years from the date on which it is established by the Executive Director. Funds may be disbursed for a maximum of seven years from that date.

D. Strategic priorities

4. The Global Framework on Chemicals Fund should mobilize resources for national priority activities in keeping with the work areas set out in the strategic objectives and targets of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste.

E. Sources of financing

5. Contributions shall be encouraged from Governments, regional economic integration organizations, the private sector, including industry, foundations, other non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders.

F. Eligibility rules

6. Developing countries and countries with economies in transition will be eligible for support. Approval of projects meeting the objectives outlined in the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste will take into account considerations related to geographic and sectoral balance and will pay particular attention to urgent needs and the requirements of least developed countries and small island developing States.

7. Project proposals may be presented by those Governments participating in the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste that have endorsed or given other appropriate formal recognition of and support for the Framework, through the relevant Governments. Project proposals must contain full justification for the amount sought.

8. On an exceptional basis and with regard to the resources and administrative capacity available, representatives of civil society networks participating in the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste shall also be eligible to present project proposals, subject to endorsement by the countries hosting the projects.

G. Project assessment and approval

9. The participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals may provide technical assistance in the development of project proposals when requested to do so by project proponents.

10. Project proposals will be country-driven and will be submitted to the Framework secretariat and screened for completeness and eligibility.

11. Screened projects will be submitted by the secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste to the Executive Board of the Fund for appraisal and approval.

12. Independent monitoring and evaluation and reporting on project implementation to the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund Executive Board will be the responsibility of project proponents.

H. Guidance by the Executive Board

13. The Global Framework on Chemicals Fund Executive Board will review reports on project implementation, as well as from the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme on the financial resources and administration of the trust fund, and provide guidance and take decisions thereon.

14. The Global Framework on Chemicals Fund Executive Board will report to the Conference at its regular sessions on the operations of the Fund.

I. Accounts and audit

15. The accounts and financial management of the Global Framework on Chemicals Fund shall be subject to the internal and external audit process of the United Nations. Accounts for the trust fund shall be presented to the Executive Board as soon as possible after the financial period is closed and shall also be considered by the Conference.

Resolution V/4: Mainstreaming a gender perspective and promoting gender equality and empowerment of all women and girls in chemicals and waste management

The Conference,

Taking into account the principles and approaches mentioned in section IV of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1, “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and its Sustainable Development Goals 5 (achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls) and 17 (strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development),

Recalling also the Economic and Social Council’s agreed conclusions 1997/2 of 18 July 1997 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system¹ and its resolution 2012/24, on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system, which welcomed the development of the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women,

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 75/1 of 21 September 2020 on the declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations, and specifically paragraph 11, on placing women and girls at the centre and accelerating action to achieve gender equality, women’s participation and the empowerment of women and girls in all domains,

Recalling United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/17 on promoting gender equality and the human rights and empowerment of women and girls in environmental governance,

Recognizing that gender equality is relevant to chemicals and waste management,

Underlining the importance of involving women at all levels of decision-making in order to ensure their equal participation and leadership,

Welcoming actions by all stakeholders to promote gender equality, to create the necessary conditions to empower all women and girls in the context of chemicals and waste management, and to support addressing the global pollution crisis, including through the Gender and Chemicals Partnership,

Emphasizing the importance of gender mainstreaming for further promoting gender equality and the rights and empowerment of all women and girls to ensure the effective implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, and the need to address gender-differentiated impacts of chemical exposure,

1. *Requests* the secretariat, with the participation of interested stakeholders, to develop a gender action plan for consideration by the Conference at its next session in order to advance towards full, equal and meaningful participation by all women in decision-making, and to promote gender-responsive policies and mainstreaming a gender perspective in the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, taking into account progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective;

2. *Encourages* all stakeholders to support interim actions towards the goals mentioned in paragraph 1 above, such as the development of national gender action plans and any other actions to promote gender equality and to create the necessary conditions for all women and girls to empower themselves in chemicals and waste management, including, but not limited to, multisectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships, promoting and incorporating gender-specific tools, gender-disaggregated data collection methods, and research to better understand the links between gender, chemicals and waste;

3. *Requests* the secretariat to foster collaboration, as appropriate, with secretariats of multilateral environmental agreements and with relevant United Nations agencies and programmes, including UN-Women, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and

¹ *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3 (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, sect. A, para. 4.*

other relevant partners in the field of gender equality, in relation to the implementation of the Global Framework² on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste;

4. *Invites* all stakeholders to include information on progress made in mainstreaming a gender perspective in their reports to the Conference.

² The reference to the Framework here and thereafter refers to the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste.

Resolution V/5: Emerging policy issues and issues of concern

The Conference,

Recalling its resolutions II/4, III/2 and IV/2 on emerging policy issues and acknowledging with appreciation the cooperative actions taken by Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management stakeholders on the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern,

Recognizing the efforts made, the progress achieved to date, and the contribution of the lead entities of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and other stakeholders to the progress made in responding to the Conference resolutions on the existing emerging policy issues and other issues of concern,

1. *Welcomes* the *Assessment Report on Issues of Concern*¹ prepared by the United Nations Environment Programme in response to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 4/8 on sound management of chemicals and waste;

2. *Decides* that all existing emerging policy issues and other issues of concern recognized before the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management should transition on an interim basis to “issues of concern” as part of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste until the next session of the Conference, at which time the Conference will determine their path under the Framework;

3. *Strongly encourages* all relevant stakeholders to continue their work, as needed, on existing emerging policy issues and other issues of concern recognized before the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management, under the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste until the next session of the Conference;

4. *Invites* the responsible Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals organizations, in consultation with stakeholders and taking into account the Inter-Organization Programme’s report on Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management emerging policy issues and other issues of concern,² the *Assessment Report on Issues of Concern* and the *Global Consultation on Chemicals and Waste Issues of Concern*,³ to submit to the Conference at its next session, under the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, a report including:

(a) An update on progress achieved in relation to the existing emerging policy issues and other issues of concern recognized before the fifth session of the Conference indicating how the work done contributes to achieving the strategic objective(s) and targets of the Framework;

(b) An analysis of opportunities to further address the emerging policy issues and other issues of concern recognized before the fifth session of the Conference;

(c) A recommendation on the future of each of these emerging policy issues and other issues of concern as an “issue of concern” under the Framework, including workplans, targets and indicators, and timelines, if relevant.

¹ United Nations Environment Programme, *An Assessment Report on Issues of Concern: Chemicals and Waste Issues Posing Risks to Human Health and the Environment* (2020).

² SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/16.

³ As reported in document SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/20.

Resolution V/6: International cooperation and coordination

The Conference,

Taking note of the Millennium Development Goals, the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development,¹ the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, entitled “The future we want”,² and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,³ which have all addressed the chemicals and waste challenges that require comprehensive international cooperative action,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 61/205 of 20 December 2006, in which the General Assembly welcomed the endorsement of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management by the Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum of the United Nations Environment Programme at its ninth special session,

Taking note of the ministerial declaration of the United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme at its fifth session, entitled “Strengthening actions for nature to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals”,⁴ which addresses the triple crises for our common environment of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution,

Taking note also, in particular, of United Nations Environment Assembly resolutions 4/8 and 5/7, on the sound management of chemicals and waste, and 5/8, on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution; of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework;⁵ and of relevant decisions on chemicals and waste management adopted by the governing bodies of the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Waste 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, the Minamata Convention on Mercury and other relevant international agreements,

Recalling the adoption of resolutions on the implementation of the Strategic Approach that highlight the urgent need for action across all relevant sectors, including by the governing bodies of organizations participating in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, and also decisions on international cooperation and coordination taken by the governing bodies of other international bodies and multilateral agreements,

Taking note with appreciation of the report on the activities undertaken by the secretariat to implement the Strategic Approach between July 2015 and June 2023,⁶ as well as the information provided by stakeholders on activities undertaken to support the implementation of the Strategic Approach, including the report⁷ submitted by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to the Conference at its fifth session,

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

1. *Brings* the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste to the attention of the governing bodies of relevant intergovernmental organizations and multilateral agreements and invites them to endorse or otherwise appropriately acknowledge and support the Framework, with a view to considering, within the scope of their respective mandates, the incorporation in their programmes of work of mutually supportive activities that also contribute to the achievement of the strategic objectives and targets of the Framework;

2. *Encourages* all relevant international organizations to continue promoting the broad engagement of stakeholders and sectors in national and regional efforts related to chemicals and waste;

¹ *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.

² General Assembly resolution 66/288, annex.

³ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

⁴ UNEP/EA.5/HLS.1.

⁵ Decision 15/4 of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, annex.

⁶ SAICM/ICCM.5/3/Rev.1.

⁷ SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/19.

3. *Encourages* all stakeholders to consider, when implementing the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, the important interlinkages with chemicals- and waste-related aspects of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and also those with other instruments and measures for addressing other international development challenges, in particular in relation to poverty, health, food, energy, labour, water, sanitation, climate change and biodiversity loss;

4. *Encourages* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to work closely with the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, other relevant United Nations organizations, instruments and frameworks, and the secretariats of relevant multilateral agreements to foster effective cooperation and collaboration in promoting and implementing the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste;

5. *Stresses* the importance of the relationship with the ongoing processes to establish a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, and an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment, and urges all stakeholders of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste to actively participate in and contribute to the establishment of the science-policy panel and the instrument on plastic pollution;

6. *Requests* the secretariat to cooperate closely with the future science-policy panel with a view to identifying issues of relevance for supporting the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and further options for fostering collaboration and cooperation to be considered by the Conference;

7. *Welcomes* the adoption of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework by the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity and invites stakeholders to take into account the objectives of that framework in their actions to implement the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste;

8. *Requests* the secretariat to prepare, subject to the availability of resources and in collaboration with relevant organizations, a report on interlinkages between the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, outlining entry points for enhancing collaboration and cooperation in the implementation of the two frameworks, for consideration by the Conference at its next session;

9. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference at its next session on its activities to implement the present resolution, as appropriate.

Resolution V/7: Development of guidelines for national focal points

The Conference,

Recalling that the final report of the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management from 2006 to 2015¹ noted several factors that constrained national focal points' ability to fulfil their role, and that one element highlighted was the fact that little guidance was provided to national focal points in fulfilling their functions,

Recognizing the gap in guidance for national focal points, and recalling that the African region, at the second session of the Conference, in 2009, proposed a set of guidelines² for national focal points in order to strengthen and prioritize national chemical and waste management capacities,

Noting that the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management Global Plan of Action (table B)³ provided detailed activities and indicators for national focal points, without providing for guidance or capacity-building,

Appreciating the important role of national focal points in the success of the process to prepare recommendations regarding the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (Beyond 2020 process), as noted by the Bureau of the fifth session of the International Conference on Chemicals Management at its eighth meeting, in January 2020,

Recognizing the opportunity for integrating the role of national focal points with the roles of regional focal points and focal points of non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations,

Emphasizing the key role that national focal points will play in the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste,

1. *Requests* the secretariat to develop draft guidelines for consideration at the next session of the Conference;
2. *Invites* all stakeholders, including national focal points, and the relevant participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to provide input on the draft guidelines;
3. *Encourages* the inclusion in the draft guidelines of guidance on how to build the capacity of national focal points, as well as on how national focal points can promote multisectoral collaboration and cooperation, coordinate such collaboration, and promote risk communication and awareness-raising.

¹ SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/1.

² SAICM/ICCM.2/15, annex IV.

³ Available at [New SAICM Text with ICCM resolutions_E.pdf](#). (The Global Plan of Action starts on p. 26; table B is on p. 33.)

Resolution V/8: Implementation arrangements

The Conference,

Having adopted the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste,

Noting that further implementation modalities and other arrangements will be essential for transitioning to the full and effective implementation of the Framework,

Considering that effective implementation modalities and arrangements are best established through full coordination and consultation among all involved stakeholders,

Highlighting the dedication of the participants in the Conference and other stakeholders to expeditiously implementing the Framework to promote human health and environmental protection, and valuing the diversity that each of them brings to the process,

Considering the value and various dimensions of integrated chemicals and waste management, including development of national chemicals and waste management systems, industry action in the economic and industrial sectors along value chains, and the integration of chemicals and waste management in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals,¹

Noting the valuable preparatory activities undertaken by the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals together with diverse stakeholders in the area of integrated chemicals and waste management, including for an implementation programme to scale up action by economic and industrial sectors along value chains,

Emphasizing that the possible adoption of implementation programmes at the next session of the Conference should not delay immediate stakeholder action to implement the strategic objectives and targets of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste,

1. *Urges* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, and organizations and stakeholders representing civil society and the private sector to comprehensively implement the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste as a framework for national and international action and cooperation on chemicals and waste;

2. *Calls on* all stakeholders to develop effective chemicals and waste management policies, systems and capacities that address all stages of the life cycle of chemicals in all countries, and in key economic and industrial sectors throughout the production value chains and the life cycle of chemicals;

3. *Urges* all stakeholders across the life cycle of key economic and industrial sectors, including but not limited to food and agriculture, textiles, electronics, and building and construction, to commit themselves to the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, and invites the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals to play a facilitating and coordinating role in encouraging their engagement;

4. *Encourages* non-governmental organizations and the private sector to support the implementation of the Framework at the local, national, regional and global levels, including through partnerships with Governments, intergovernmental organizations, regional economic integration organizations and other stakeholders;

5. *Invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to provide continued support for the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, including in preparing for the next session of the Conference;

6. *Also invites* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to continue assuming overall administrative responsibility for the secretariat of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and to provide for the continuity of effective secretariat services and administrative support for the implementation of Conference resolutions;

7. *Encourages* the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme to work closely with the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, other

¹ SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/18.

relevant United Nations organizations, instruments and frameworks, and the secretariats of relevant multilateral agreements to foster effective cooperation and collaboration in promoting and implementing the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste;

8. *Requests* the secretariat, in consultation with the Bureau, to define the required arrangements for operationalizing the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste as adopted by the Conference at its fifth session, and to prepare recommendations to be considered at the next session of the Conference;

9. *Invites* the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, Governments, stakeholders as defined by the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, as well as other international organizations to collaborate on and develop proposals for implementation programmes, including their respective mandates, terms of reference, workplans and other mechanisms, for further consideration at the next session of the Conference, considering, among others, the following areas of work for possible implementation programmes:

(a) Developing integrated national chemicals and waste management systems and capacities at the national and regional levels;

(b) Integrating sound chemicals and waste management in economic and industrial sectors along value chains;

(c) Integrating sound chemicals and waste management in sustainable development decision-making processes, as appropriate;

(d) Addressing issues of concern, as appropriate;

10. *Welcomes* and *encourages* the undertaking of further activities concerning all areas of work during the intersessional period until the next session of the Conference;

11. *Requests* the secretariat to report on progress in the implementation of current and future programmes and other activities and initiatives related to implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste to the Conference at its next session.

Resolution V/9: Measurability structure

The Conference,

Recognizing the importance to the success of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste of monitoring implementation, assessing effectiveness in achieving the objectives and targets, and evaluating overall impact on achieving sound chemicals and waste management, and recognizing the contribution of the Framework to protecting human health and the environment,

Appreciating the work undertaken on section XI of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, “Taking stock of progress,” by stakeholders, in particular Japan, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals,

Referring to the measurability structure described in section XI of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, “Taking stock of progress”, and to be included in annex III to the Framework,

Specifying that the measurability structure is the basis for measuring progress by and for stakeholders, according to the process outlined in section XI of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste,

Recognizing with appreciation the existing indicators provided in the “Inventory and analysis report: existing indicators on chemicals and waste management”,¹

Recalling annex III to the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, which outlines the measurability structure of the Framework and its methodology for assessing progress in the Framework’s implementation and alignment with the Framework’s strategic objectives and vision,

1. *Decides* to establish an open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators that will work by electronic means with the aim of preparing recommendations for the finalizing of the measurability structure and a proposal for a set of indicators for annex III to the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, to be considered at the next session of the Conference;
2. *Requests* the secretariat to support the work of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators;
3. *Invites* the United Nations Statistical Commission, participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals, and other relevant stakeholders to participate in the work of the open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators and support the development of the measurability structure, considering relevant indicators from the “Inventory and analysis report: existing indicators on chemicals and waste management”.

¹ SAICM/IP.4/INF/39/Rev.1.

Resolution V/10: Health surveillance systems for the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste to prevent and protect human health from chemical exposure

The Conference,

Whereas World Health Assembly resolution WHA76.17 on the impact of chemicals, waste and pollution on human health requests the Director General of the World Health Organization to support countries upon request, especially developing countries, in developing national or regional human biomonitoring programmes for chemicals of concern, through capacity-building and technology transfer on voluntary and mutually agreed terms and, in accordance with international obligations, to help identify potential risks in territories regarding population groups; to collect data to support the development of public policies; and to support the improvement of national health systems,

Considering the importance of implementing interventions to prevent and to provide for the early detection of exposure to chemicals and waste,

Mindful that more than half of countries worldwide do not have a poison centre,¹

Acknowledging the World Health Organization guidelines for establishing a poison centre,² which provide information on services that may be offered by a poison centre and contain detailed practical information on planning and operating such centres,

Acknowledging also the role of poison centres, as described in the World Health Organization Chemicals Road Map,³ to engage the health sector in the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste,

Noting that a poison centre is a specialized unit that provides advice to prevent exposure and support for risk reduction, education and training, research, alerts regarding chemical events, and diagnosis and management of poisoning,

Recognizing the need to address the lack of availability of antidotes to counter the toxic effects of chemical poisoning and the potential to collaborate regionally on such issues,

Considering the value of poison centres to the health and safety of individuals, communities and institutions as well as their broader role in contributing to the sound management of chemicals and waste,

Considering also the important role that poison centres play in the development of public health policies relevant to multisectoral approaches to the sound management of chemicals and waste by providing a harmonized and comparable system for the collection and registration of information on cases of chronic and acute chemical exposure and for surveillance,

Recognizing the role of surveillance systems for human health as part of integrated national chemicals and waste management systems,⁴

1. *Encourages* the strengthening of institutional linkages between poison centres and health ministries/authorities and other government agencies, as appropriate, to ensure the sound management of chemicals;
2. *Encourages* stakeholders to establish and strengthen surveillance systems as part of integrated national chemicals and waste management systems to assist in implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste;
3. *Encourages* the development of a proposal for the creation of a global network for the collection of health surveillance data and for the analysis of trends regarding selected chemicals of concern;

¹ World Health Organization Global Health Observatory, “World directory of poisons centres”, available at <https://www.who.int/data/gho/data/themes/topics/indicator-groups/poison-control-and-unintentional-poisoning>.

² World Health Organization, *Guidelines for Establishing a Poison Centre* (2020), available at <https://who.int/publications/i/item/9789240009523>.

³ Available at <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/WHO-FWC-PHE-EPE-17.03>.

⁴ See World Health Organization, *Guidelines for Establishing a Poison Centre*, chaps. 5 (on toxicovigilance and prevention of poisoning) and 8 (on guidelines for poison centres).

4. *Invites* the World Health Assembly to consider the present resolution during its consideration of the updated Chemicals Road Map at its seventy-eighth session, and to support its implementation, as appropriate.

Resolution V/11: Highly hazardous pesticides

The Conference,

Mindful of the goal expressed in the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development of aiming to achieve, by 2020, that chemicals are used and produced in ways that lead to the minimization of significant adverse impacts on human health and the environment, and of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations Member States in 2015,

Recalling its resolution IV/3 on highly hazardous pesticides, which recognized highly hazardous pesticides as an issue of concern and called for concerted action to address highly hazardous pesticides in the context of the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

Recalling also target A7 of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, which states that by 2035, stakeholders have taken effective measures to phase out highly hazardous pesticides in agriculture where the risks have not been managed and where safer and affordable alternatives are available; and to promote transition to and make available those alternatives,

Building on the submission presented by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations at the third meeting of the Open-ended Working Group of the International Conference on Chemicals Management about scaling up efforts to address highly hazardous pesticides globally, in collaboration with the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization and others,¹

Noting that resolution IV/3 recognized that highly hazardous pesticides cause adverse human health and environmental effects in many countries, particularly in low-income and middle-income countries,

Taking into account the principles and approaches mentioned in section IV of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste,

Taking note of paragraphs 84 and 86 of the report² of the 131st session of the Council of the Food and Agricultural Organization, which recognized that organization's role in the Strategic Approach and suggested that its activities in the framework of the Strategic Approach could include risk reduction, including the progressive ban on highly hazardous pesticides, promoting good agricultural practices, ensuring environmentally sound disposal of stockpiles of obsolete pesticides, and capacity-building in establishing national and regional laboratories,

Affirming the importance of the contributions of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 2.4³ on sustainable food production systems and resilient agricultural practices that help maintain ecosystems and target 3.9 on substantially reducing the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination,

Recognizing with appreciation the significant work being done by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme, the World Health Organization and others to raise awareness of and inform and guide pesticide regulators, industry, civil society and other stakeholders on the identification and elimination of unacceptable risks from highly hazardous pesticides,

Noting that the final report of the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach from 2006 to 2015⁴ found that increased effort by Strategic Approach stakeholders to work in partnership to take action on highly hazardous pesticides and promote agroecology would both protect and enhance

¹ See document SAICM/OEWG.3/INF/9, p. 67, available at <https://www.saicm.org/About/OEWG/OEWGmeetings/tabid/5984/language/en-US/Default.aspx>.

² The relevant extract from the report is available at [CL 131/REP \(fao.org\)](https://www.fao.org/CL131/REP/).

³ “By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.”

⁴ SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/1.

biodiversity and minimize the adverse impacts on health from exposure to chemical inputs for vulnerable groups,

1. *Endorses* the formation of a global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides with the goal of taking effective measures to phase out highly hazardous pesticides in agriculture where the risks have not been managed and where safer and affordable alternatives are available; and to promote transition to and make available those alternatives, as a voluntary multi-stakeholder initiative under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization;

2. *Invites* all interested stakeholders to become members of the global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides referred to in paragraph 1 above and commit themselves to its overall goal and, where appropriate, to contribute financial or in-kind resources or expertise towards the development and implementation of its activities;

3. *Requests* the global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides to support the implementation of relevant targets set by the Conference at its fifth session, and, in particular, to develop and implement an action plan with clear targets and milestones for progress, developed in consultation with stakeholders and guided by the International Code of Conduct on Pesticide Management (2014) and the related Guidelines on Highly Hazardous Pesticides (2016), which define the highly hazardous pesticides criteria and describe the approach to managing risk; this work is to build on “Initial considerations and elements of an action plan on highly hazardous pesticides”,⁵ prepared by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Environment Programme, in the following areas:

(a) Raising awareness of the human health and environmental impacts of highly hazardous pesticides;

(b) Identifying and promoting safer and more sustainable agricultural practices, including agroecology, integrated pest management and the use of non-chemical alternatives;

(c) Sharing examples of countries having successfully phased out highly hazardous pesticides;

(d) Supporting low- and middle-income countries in their efforts to strengthen national regulatory frameworks and phase out highly hazardous pesticides in agriculture where the risks have not been managed and where safer and affordable alternatives are available; and to promote transition to and make available those alternatives;

(e) Mobilizing support for farmers and agricultural workers in their transition from the use of highly hazardous pesticides, where the risks have not been managed, towards less hazardous alternatives;

(f) Supporting the agrifood supply chain in a transition from highly hazardous pesticides to safer and affordable alternatives, where available and where the risks have not been managed;

4. *Invites* the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Environment Programme and the World Health Organization, within the scope of their respective mandates and available resources, to coordinate the work of the global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides, with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations taking the lead role;

5. *Invites* the global alliance on highly hazardous pesticides to report on progress to the Conference at its next session and to relevant regional meetings.

⁵ See document SAICM/ICCM.5/INF/16, p. 26.

Resolution V/12: Programme of work and budget

The Conference,

Having adopted the Bonn Declaration For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste,

Recalling its resolution I/1, which invited the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme and the Director General of the World Health Organization to provide appropriate staff and other resources, within available resources, to enable their organizations to take lead roles in their respective areas of expertise in relation to the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management,

Welcoming United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/7 on sound management of chemicals and waste, in which the Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme was requested to provide continuity of effective secretariat services and administrative support for the implementation of any decision made by the International Conference on Chemicals Management,

Welcoming also World Health Assembly resolution WHA76.17, on the impact of chemicals, waste and pollution on human health,

Recalling that funding for the secretariat of the Strategic Approach has been provided on a voluntary basis, and noting the needs arising from the adoption of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste,

Acknowledging decisions BC-16/22, RC-11/9 and SC-11/21, on international cooperation and coordination with other organizations, adopted by the conferences of the parties to 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, with a view to enhancing coordination and cooperation between the conventions and the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, promoting the sound management of chemicals and waste, strengthening the implementation of the conventions at the national and regional levels, and fostering capacity-building efforts,

Cognizant of the ongoing negotiations to end plastic pollution, pursuant to United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 5/14, entitled “End plastic pollution: towards an international legally binding instrument”, and of Environment Assembly resolution 5/8 on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, as well as the potential interlinkages between the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and those processes,

Taking note of the secretariat activities and budget document for 2024–2026,¹

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work carried out by the secretariat of the Strategic Approach since the adoption of the Strategic Approach;
2. *Invites* the secretariat to further increase cooperation with the World Health Organization to continue and strengthen the involvement of the health sector in the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste;
3. *Approves* the indicative programme of work, budget and staffing structure for the secretariat for the period 2024–2026 as presented in tables 1 and 2 of the annex to the present resolution;
4. *Invites* the secretariat to further increase cooperation and coordination with relevant stakeholders, such as the secretariats of 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, the Minamata Convention on Mercury, the Convention on Biological Diversity, the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, as well as the secretariats of the bodies negotiating an international legally binding instrument to end plastic pollution and the establishment of

¹ See document SAICM/ICCM.5/3/Rev.1.

a science-policy panel, and the secretariats of the resulting future instruments, on issues of common relevance;

5. *Takes note* of the adoption of procedural decisions on organizational, administrative and budgetary matters during the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic via a silent procedure when the Conference was not in session;

6. *Decides* on the use of the remaining cash balance of the Quick Start Programme trust fund of 2,492,746.53 United States dollars, which consisted of refunds from implementing partners, final donor contributions, and the accumulated trust fund interest income gained over the years, as set out in resolution V/3 on financial considerations;

7. *Encourages* all Governments and other stakeholders in a position to do so, in accordance with the integrated approach to financing the sound management of chemicals and wastes, to contribute financial and other resources to enable the secretariat to perform its mandated functions as set out in the resolutions of the Conference;

8. *Requests* the secretariat to report to the Conference at its next session on its activities, staffing and budget;

9. *Also requests* the secretariat to prepare a budget for the period 2027–2029 for consideration by the Conference at its next session, explaining the key principles, assumptions and strategy on which the budget is based, and presenting expenditures for that period in a programmatic format and broken down by budget activity;

10. *Decides* that the timing of future meetings of the Open-ended Working Group beyond 2025 will be decided on by the Conference.

Annex to resolution V/12

Proposed activities and proposed budget

I. Proposed activities

Table 1

Proposed activities based on the recommendations resulting from the intersessional process submitted for consideration by the Conference in the draft programme of work for the period 2024–2026

<i>Function of the secretariat</i>	<i>Activities 2024–2026</i>
To promote the establishment and maintenance of a network of stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engaging with and serve as a platform for the large network of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste stakeholders and sectors, proactively encouraging the nomination of focal points by such stakeholders, and greater use of the webinar system of the secretariat of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions to facilitate regular communication.
To promote and facilitate the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste, including capacity-building and technical assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing an information paper on the scope of modalities and other arrangements required to fully implement the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste. Facilitating, upon request by a government, voluntary peer reviews.
To continue to strengthen working relationships with participating organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals and their networks, other United Nations bodies and the secretariats of relevant international agreements in order to draw on their sectoral expertise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Submitting relevant outcomes of the Conference to different forums, such as the United Nations Environment Assembly, World Health Assembly, Conferences of the Parties to the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, and others, as appropriate. Promoting and facilitating multisectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement with the implementation of the programmatic elements of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste and with the agenda of the Conference. Identifying possibilities for increased cooperation under the Framework with other bodies dealing with relevant issues, such as the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, on mutually supportive targets on pollution and chemicals management. Liaising and following up on developments of the science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution and the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. Continuing to maintain the Knowledge Management Platform. Continuing to participate in Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals meetings and further supporting the engagement of organizations participating in the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals.
To facilitate and promote the exchange of relevant scientific and technical information, including the development and dissemination of guidance materials to support stakeholder implementation, as well as provide information clearing-house services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing and disseminating guidance materials (including on funding mechanisms) to support implementation by the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste stakeholders. Supporting the process of nominating, selecting and adopting issues of concern, as well as supporting the work of ad hoc multi-stakeholder working groups established in this regard under the Framework. Providing clearing-house services in support of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste implementation, including promoting the exchange of relevant scientific and technical information among relevant stakeholders. Supporting the establishment and maintenance of a clearing-house mechanism to provide information on resource mobilization and possible sources of financing for the sound management of chemicals and waste. Ensuring continued relationship and engagement in mobilizing scientific and policy gap assessment expertise, taking into account the ongoing science policy panel process, building on the panel's role of

	<p>serving as the panel in which policy issues could be addressed in full coordination with the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ensuring relationship and engagement with any future international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, building on the added value of the Framework in mobilizing economic and industry sectors of relevance to the objective of the instrument and in coordinating action regarding policy issues of shared relevance.
<p>To facilitate the meetings and intersessional work of the Conference as well as regional meetings, and to disseminate the reports and recommendations of the Conference, including to relevant global and regional organizations and institutions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organizing the next session of the Conference in 2026. Organizing the next meeting of the Open-ended Working Group for the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste in 2025. Organizing a round of regional meetings in advance of the next sessions of the Conference and the Open-ended Working Group, in order to prepare and facilitate input into activities, receive updates from regions regarding priority actions agreed on by the Conference at its fifth session, and promote the exchange of expertise and information. Organizing one face-to-face meeting per year of the Bureau of the Conference. Online meetings of the Bureau will also be held as needed. Planning and fundraising for the above meetings. Monitoring the secretariat budget and donor contributions and coordinating the preparation of reports to donors.
<p>Functioning of technical, policy and scientific subsidiary and ad hoc expert bodies established by the Conference</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Supporting technical, policy and scientific subsidiary and ad hoc expert bodies established by the Conference.
<p>To promote, enhance and support the participation of all sectors and stakeholders in the Conference and the programme of work, including in Conference sessions and regional meetings</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promoting the engagement of the economic and industry sectors. Developing and implementing a communication strategy and an engagement plan
<p>To report to the Conference on implementation by all stakeholders of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reporting on progress on the implementation of new programmes, other activities, and initiatives related to the implementation of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste at the next session of the Conference. Liaising, in follow-up to the fifth session of the Conference, with all stakeholders on the recommendations, resolutions and outcomes of the Conference, including through stakeholder and sector consultations.
<p>To report to the Conference at its next session on the development of a gender action plan</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Developing a gender action plan in line with resolution V/4.
<p>To present, at the next session of the Conference, draft guidelines for enabling national focal points to strengthen and prioritize national chemical and waste management capacities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drafting of guidelines on how to build the capacity of national focal points, as well as on how national focal points can promote multisectoral collaboration and cooperation, coordinate this collaboration, and promote risk communication and awareness-raising.
<p>To report on progress in the work and activities related to the measurability structure of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste at the next session of the Conference</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing and supporting the work of an open-ended ad hoc group on measurability and indicators.

II. Proposed budget

Table 2

Proposed indicative budget for the secretariat for the period 2024–2026

(United States dollars)

		2024	2025	2026	Total	
10	Project personnel component					
	1100					
	1101	Coordinator P-5 (Environment Fund)	–	–	–	–
	1102	Programme Officer P-4 (Health and labour sectoral engagement)	202 000	208 060	214 302	624 362
	1103	Programme Officer P-4 (Policy implementation)	202 000	208 060	214 302	624 362
	1104	Programme Officer P-4 (Operation and organization)	202 000	208 060	214 302	624 362
	1105	Programme Officer P-3 (Operation and organization)	182 000	187 460	193 084	562 544
	1106	Programme Officer P-3 (Knowledge management and measurability)	182 000	187 460	193 084	562 544
	1107	Programme Officer P-3 (Intersectoral and multi-stakeholder engagement)	182 000	187 460	193 084	562 544
	1108	Fund Management Officer P-3	182 000	187 460	193 084	562 544
	1109	Associate Programme Officer P-2 (Capacity-building)	162 000	166 860	171 866	500 726
	1110	Associate Programme Officer P-2 (Communications)	162 000	166 860	171 866	500 726
	1111	Associate Programme Officer P-2 (IT support/registration/web/document control)	162 000	166 860	171 866	500 726
	1199	Subtotal	1 820 000	1 874 600	1 930 838	5 625 438
	1200	Consultants (description of activity or service)				
	1201	Consultants	100 000	100 000	100 000	300 000
	1299	Subtotal	100 000	100 000	100 000	300 000
	1300	Administrative support (title and grade)				
	1301	Secretary GS–6 (Secretariat Administrative Assistant)	151 000	155 530	160 196	466 726
	1302	Secretary GS–6 (Secretariat Administrative Assistant)	151 000	155 530	160 196	466 726
	1303	Secretary GS–4 (IT and communication)	126 000	129 780	133 673	389 453
	1399	Total	428 000	440 840	454 065	1 322 905
	1600	Travel on official business				
	1601	Staff travel on official business	15 000	80 000	80 000	175 000
	1699	Total	15 000	80 000	80 000	175 000
	1999	Component total	2 363 000	2 495 440	2 564 903	7 423 343
30	Training component					
	3100	Meetings and conferences				
	3101	Regional meetings	–	–	630 000	630 000
	3102	Open-ended Working Group	–	1 200 000	–	1 200 000
	3103	Bureau meeting	35 000	35 000	35 000	105 000
	3104	Meeting of the Conference	–	–	2 500 000	2 500 000
	3105	Ad hoc working group	–	–	–	–
	3399	Subtotal	35 000	1 235 000	3 165 000	4 435 000
	3999	Component total	35 000	1 235 000	3 165 000	4 435 000

			2024	2025	2026	Total
40	Premises component					
	4100	Fixed operating costs				
	4101	Operating costs	140 000	144 200	148 526	432 726
		4199	140 000	144 200	148 526	432 726
		Subtotal				
	4999	Component total	140 000	144 200	148 526	432 726
50	Miscellaneous component					
	5200	Reporting costs				
	5201	Printing and translation costs	10 000	10 000	10 000	30 000
	5202	Publication of the Global Framework on Chemicals – For a Planet Free of Harm from Chemicals and Waste texts	20 000	20 000	20 000	60 000
		5299	30 000	30 000	30 000	90 000
		Subtotal				
	5300	Sundry				
	5301	Other miscellaneous	50 000	50 000	50 000	150 000
		5399	50 000	50 000	50 000	150 000
		Subtotal				
	5500	Evaluation				
	5501	Final evaluation	–	–	76 000	76 000
		5499	–	–	76 000	76 000
		Subtotal				
	5999	Component total	80 000	80 000	156 000	316 000
		Direct project cost	2 618 000	3 954 640	6 034 429	12 607 069
		Programme support costs (13 per cent)	340 340	514 103	784 476	1 638 919
99	Grand total		2 958 340	4 468 743	6 818 905	14 245 988

Annex II

Report of the Committee of the Whole

Rapporteur: Naresh Pal Gangwar (India)

Introduction

1. At the 1st plenary meeting of its fifth session, on Monday, 25 September 2023, the International Conference on Chemicals Management established a sessional committee of the whole to address further the draft framework instrument reflecting the outcomes of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020. The Committee of the Whole was empowered to establish break-out groups or informal consultation groups on specific topics as it deemed necessary.

2. In accordance with the decision of the Conference, the Committee of the Whole held meetings between Monday, 25 September and Saturday, 30 September 2023. As decided by the Conference, the Committee was co-chaired by Reggie Hernaus (Kingdom of the Netherlands) and Keima Gardiner (Trinidad and Tobago), and Naresh Pal Gangwar (India) served as Rapporteur.

I. Opening of the meeting

3. The Co-Chair of the Committee of the Whole opened the meeting at 5.25 p.m. on Monday, 25 September 2023.

II. Organization of work

4. The Co-Chairs proposed and the Committee agreed that the working methods of the Committee would involve discussion of the text of the draft framework instrument by theme and that the Committee would aim to use existing language in the draft framework instrument wherever possible. The Committee also agreed to establish small informal groups, as it deemed necessary, with clear and time-bound mandates to consider specific portions of text under the direction of a rapporteur, who would then report back on the discussions of the group to the Committee of the Whole.

5. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, expressed their support for the proposed pragmatic approach. In response to queries from a number of representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, the Co-Chairs clarified that only one informal consultation group would meet at any given time and the meetings would not overlap with the meetings of the contact group on the proposed programme of work and budget, but would take place in parallel with the meeting of the Committee of the Whole. Furthermore, they clarified that such informal consultations would be time bound and the text to be considered would be clearly defined and limited to an appropriate, manageable amount rather than encompassing the consideration of a theme as a whole.

6. With regard to the themes to be discussed, in addition to the themes proposed by the Co-Chairs, namely finance, targets and capacity-building, several representatives requested consideration of vision, strategic objectives, the introductory section of the text, and principles and approaches. One representative requested that any discussion on capacity-building take place in the Committee of the Whole to the extent possible and further discussion only be allocated to a small informal group if absolutely necessary.

7. The Committee agreed to adopt the working methods proposed by the Co-Chairs.

III. Draft framework instrument reflecting the outcomes of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020

A. Scope

8. Discussions on scope were mainly held in a small informal working group, to resolve issues surrounding the use of the terms “associated waste”, “chemicals and waste” and “their waste”, as well as on “sound management” and “safe and sustainable”. Much of the discussion focused on the scope

of “chemicals and waste”, a term that appeared throughout the framework. During the discussion, some representatives speaking on behalf of groups of countries highlighted the importance of clear, concise wording of the scope for effective implementation.

B. Principles and approaches

9. The discussion on principles and approaches primarily revolved around the emphasis to be given to the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities.

C. Financial considerations

10. In the general discussion on the section of the draft framework instrument on dedicated external financing, many representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries or stakeholders, spoke in favour of the development of a mechanism instituting a globally coordinated fee on the sales of a limited number of chemicals or chemical feedstocks; or of the establishment of an international fund to implement the sound management of chemicals and waste. Several other representatives, however, considered that any financial contributions destined to support the implementation of the new framework should be voluntary and that they could not support a global taxation of chemicals. Another representative recalled that a financial mechanism based on a globally coordinated fee needed to be compatible with the rules of the World Trade Organization. A number of representatives said that any globally coordinated fees would not take into account the specific circumstances of each country and may impinge on the sovereign right of each country to ensure the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste in their own manner. A number of other representatives pointed out that many developing countries were facing chemicals-related challenges for which they were not responsible and stressed that they needed adequate support in dealing with them.

11. One representative made a counterproposal to establish a voluntary levy, administered by a universally trusted institution, that both governments and industry would pay. She proposed that the industry stakeholders that made contributions be provided in return with some mark of recognition to make their commitment known to all relevant stakeholders.

12. One representative said that her Government was unable to agree to the establishment of any kind of new fund to support the implementation of the new framework at present. She also pointed out that the current definition of stakeholders in the introduction to the draft framework included “individuals”, which meant that the text, as set out in the document before the Conference, would establish a financial mechanism that was accessible to all.

13. Another representative proposed reaching out to international and regional financial institutions, especially development banks, to secure a sustainable source of financing for the implementation of the instrument.

14. Several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, referred to the conclusion of the report on the independent evaluation of the Strategic Approach for the period 2006–2015, namely that the potential of the Strategic Approach to deliver its outcomes had been limited by insufficient external donor funding. In addition, several representatives, including the one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, spoke of the inadequacy of the resources provided by the Special Programme to support institutional strengthening at the national level for implementation of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm conventions, the Minamata Convention and the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management and the Global Environment Facility (GEF). One of them also said that the governance of GEF was dominated by developed countries, which was problematic, and that developing countries needed to be fully represented in any new funding mechanism for the implementation of the new instrument. The representative speaking on behalf of a group of countries described the Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer as an example of a funding mechanism that had enabled the successful implementation of the Protocol.

15. Several representatives from the Latin American region recalled that a draft resolution had been submitted to the Conference by the Group of Latin American and Caribbean States and the Group of African States for consideration in the contact group on draft resolutions. That proposal sought to address some of the issues that had been raised in the present discussion, including by calling for a reform of the Special Programme and GEF and the establishment of a dedicated international fund as the centrepiece of the funding arrangements. In response, several other representatives said that they would prefer to retain the square brackets in the section of the draft

instrument on dedicated external financing until the discussion on the proposed draft resolution had taken place or until the Conference decided to look at the two texts in parallel. A number of representatives pointed out, however, that the resolutions should reflect the instrument and not the other way around.

16. One representative said that the cost-recovery approach to chemicals management had not been effective and that governments always required more resources than such an approach generated. Other representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, said that industry needed to be more involved in implementing the new instrument, with some expressing concern that it was not being sufficiently held to account; a dedicated fund into which industry paid would be a means of putting the polluter pays principle into practice. Another representative said that the approach to funding should be based on a clear business case with a benefit for businesses. One representative said that placing responsibility on industry was not correct, as the governments were ultimately accountable. He also expressed concern about potential overlap with other multilateral environmental agreements and other funding sources, referring to the Protocol on Liability and Compensation for Damage Resulting from Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal and sets of existing guidelines. Another representative advocated coordination with other ongoing initiatives, such as the work of the intergovernmental negotiating committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, in order to ensure compatibility. Another representative proposed that the new fund should not focus only on the implementation of the Strategic Approach, advocating something more holistic.

17. One representative, speaking on behalf of a group of stakeholders, said that those stakeholders were looking at alternative solutions to help developing countries with the environmentally sound management of chemicals and waste. The solutions included dedicated projects and capacity-building efforts. In response, several representatives said that individual projects or capacity-building efforts could not replace a dedicated fund or a comprehensive strategy or road map for dealing with chemicals and pollution.

18. Subsequently, one of the Co-Chairs reported on a meeting held with the co-facilitators of the contact group on draft resolutions, informing representatives that they were invited to a session of the contact group, during which the draft resolution on financial considerations for implementation of the framework would be introduced and an exchange of views would take place.

19. At the suggestion of the Co-Chair, the Committee of the Whole agreed to establish an informal open-ended group on finance with a mandate to further consider the text on financial considerations of the draft framework, based on the discussion in plenary and taking into account the exchange of views in the contact group on draft resolutions, and to develop a clean text proposal on finance.

20. Following discussions in the informal open-ended group and further discussion in a more informal setting, the representative of Norway introduced a conference room paper with proposed text for the framework and a draft resolution. Many representatives, including some speaking on behalf of groups of countries, welcomed the proposed text and indicated that they were in favour of using it as a basis for further discussion.

21. During subsequent discussions in plenary, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, stressing the need to fund the secretariat properly in order to implement the new framework, advocated the use by governments of the United Nations scale of assessment as a tool in determining their contributions.

D. Strategic objectives

22. During the discussion on the strategic objectives, the representative of the European Union introduced a conference room paper proposing additional text referring to the overall guidance and orientation document endorsed by the Conference at its fourth session. The purpose of the proposed addition was to communicate the rationale behind the strategic objectives selected. Owing to a lack of time, however, the proposal was not taken up.

E. Targets

23. Extensive, detailed discussions on the targets of the framework were held both in plenary and in an informal group.

24. Introducing the discussion on targets, the Co-Chair recalled that the Committee had agreed to postpone the consideration of targets fully enclosed in brackets, as well as the discussion of timelines.

On that basis, the Committee considered a number of the draft targets, achieving agreement on some of the bracketed text.

25. In the discussion on the target on the regulation or prohibition of the export of substances that had been prohibited nationally, in response to a proposal by one representative to refer to the prior informed consent, another representative pointed out that not all chemicals were covered by the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade.

26. In the discussion on the proposed target on stakeholders taking effective measures to phase out highly hazardous pesticides in agriculture and making available or promoting safer alternatives, two representatives, both speaking on behalf of groups of stakeholders, explained that it might be necessary to keep information about chemicals out of the public domain for reasons of confidentiality.

27. During the discussion on the target on phasing out highly hazardous pesticides in agriculture, the debate mainly centred on the issue of who would be responsible for making alternatives available and promoting them. Many representatives favoured wording indicating that the stakeholder was responsible for both phasing out highly hazardous pesticides and making available and promoting alternatives, while others viewed such wording as unfairly shifting responsibility to developing countries.

28. On the target on the generation of data on chemicals production, emissions and releases, one representative raised the issue of confidentiality for the private sector, while several others stressed the importance of consumers having access to information on substances in products. One representative advised that the target mirror the wording used in other chemicals management systems, such as the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals, in order to align with previous efforts to coordinate chemical management, data and labelling.

29. In the discussion on the target on guidelines and practices for hazard and risk assessments, one representative stressed the need for standardized tools to ensure comparability between population groups and situations, while another representative, supported by several others, said that such tools needed to be negotiated line by line under individual multilateral agreements.

30. With respect to the target on educational, training and public awareness programmes, there was a lengthy discussion on the need for the term “gender-responsive” to be included. One representative questioned how education could be gender-responsive, but another drew attention to a number of recent General Assembly resolutions that characterized educational and training programmes as gender-responsive. One representative noted that certain classes of chemicals became concentrated in breast milk and put the unborn child at risk, hence the need to tailor programmes to women. Another said that the wording of the target should be consistent with that used in the resolution on gender proposed for adoption at the current session.

31. In the discussion on the target on monitoring and surveillance data, many representatives highlighted the importance of disaggregated data for effective implementation.

32. With regard to the target on issues of concern, one representative pointed out that it was the only target for the related objective, noting that it was necessary to have at least one target for each strategic objective.

33. With respect to the target on the incorporation by the private sector of strategies and policies for the sound management of chemicals and waste, there was substantial debate on the matter of how they would be determined to be “internationally recognized standards”.

34. During the discussion on the target on policies that encouraged the use of sustainable alternatives, several representatives, including one speaking on behalf of a group of countries, stressed the importance of retaining references to production and to facilitation of reuse and recycling of toxic-free products, to enable the problem to be addressed at source.

35. With respect to the target on sustainable chemical and waste management strategies, many representatives supported the use of the term “chemical footprint”, noting that it was commonly used in the private sector and the target was aimed at the private sector. Others preferred the term “input”, saying that small chemical companies would not be familiar with the term “footprint”, and one, noting that companies and countries already used the pollutant release and transfer register system, proposed the term “release”.

36. Towards the end of the discussion on targets, with the finalization of targets that included references to “governments” and “countries”, one representative, speaking on behalf of a group of countries and asking that her statement be reflected in the present report, said that she understood the

references to governments in the targets section to be in line with the rules of procedure and therefore to include regional economic integration organizations, and that any reference to countries should only be understood in the context of the framework and its specific instances of national implementation.

F. Capacity-building

37. At the beginning of the discussion on capacity-building, the representative of the Global Alliance on Health and Pollution presented a conference room paper setting out proposed text designed to be shorter and more balanced than the original text, to address developing country concerns regarding the project-by-project approach and to take into account informal feedback on an initial draft of the proposal. She highlighted the inclusion of an explicit mention at the outset that capacity-building required resources and of two references to technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, and the removal of all references to a project-by-project approach. The reference to the capacity-building hub remained but much of the original text had been transferred to the resolution on capacity-building. She also underscored the uncertainty regarding the permanence of the capacity-building hub, which, she said, would need to be reflected in the text. Finally, she noted that a capacity-building strategy would eventually need to be developed and capacity-building effectiveness would need to be reviewed on a regular basis, based on the needs of all stakeholders.

38. The Committee of the Whole agreed to use the proposed text on capacity-building as the basis for further discussion and proceeded to review it, with a number of amendments proposed and agreed.

G. Institutional arrangements

39. The discussion on institutional arrangements revolved around the periodicity of meetings of both the Conference and a possible open-ended working group, and the implications for the secretariat and participants, including with respect to the budget and programme of work.

H. Revising and updating the framework

40. During the consideration of the section on revising and updating the framework, a lengthy discussion was held on the proposed simplified process for revising and updating the annexes of the instrument in the light of scientific, policy, technological or technical developments or available new methodologies, during which the UNEP Legal Officer provided an explanation of the decision-making process and application of the rules of procedure.

IV. Adoption of the report

41. The Committee of the Whole adopted the present report on the basis of the draft report that had been circulated during the meeting and on the understanding that the finalization of the report would be entrusted to the Rapporteur, working in consultation with the Secretariat.

V. Closure of the meeting

42. Following the customary exchange of courtesies, the meeting was declared closed at 4.45 a.m. on Saturday, 30 September 2023.
