



Fourth meeting of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020 (IP4)
Bucharest, Romania, 29 August-2 September 2022

Update by the United Nations Environment Programme on relevant work undertaken in response to United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolutions 4/8, 5/7 and 5/8

Note by the secretariat

1. The secretariat has the honour to circulate, in the annex to the present note, the document entitled “*Update by the United Nations Environment Programme on relevant work undertaken in response to United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolutions 4/8, 5/7 and 5/8*”. The document presented in the annex has been developed and submitted by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and has not been formally edited.

2. The annex to this document provides an update on Resolutions from the resumed fifth session of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 5.2) (Nairobi Kenya, 28 February – 2 March 2022) and the fourth session of UNEA (UNEA 4) (Nairobi, Kenya, 11-15 March 2019) relevant to the sound management of chemicals and waste.

The update focuses mainly on the following three resolutions:

- [UNEA 4 Resolution 4/8](#) “on the sound management of chemicals and waste”
- [UNEA 5.2 Resolution 5/7](#) on “the sound management of chemicals and waste”
- [UNEA 5.2 Resolution 5/8](#) on “a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste”.

Annex: Update by the United Nations Environment Programme on relevant work undertaken in response to United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) Resolutions 4/8, 5/7 and 5/8

Introduction

At the fourth session of United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA 4) (Nairobi, Kenya, 11-15 March 2019) delegates adopted Resolution 4/8 on “the sound management of chemicals and waste”. At the resumed fifth session of UNEA (UNEA 5.2) (Nairobi Kenya, 28 February – 2 March 2022), delegates adopted Resolution 5/7 on “the sound management of chemicals and waste” and Resolution 5/8 on “a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste”. Delegates also adopted a number of other decisions and resolutions which are relevant to the sound management of chemicals and waste.

The document was prepared for the initial dates of IP4 and focused on 3 reports that UNEP has developed. It was updated to cover other relevant information arising from UNEA 5. This updated document therefore provides an overview of the work undertaken by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), leading up to these resolutions and in response to them, in particular:

1. Manuals on green and sustainable chemistry (see page 3); developed in response to Resolution 4/8. The Manuals were welcomed in Resolution 5/7 and its use was encouraged.

The [Green and Sustainable Chemistry: Framework Manual](#) (UNEP 2020) (also available in [Spanish and French](#)), and its accompanying [executive summary](#) (also available in [French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic and Chinese](#)) are now available on [UNEP’s green and sustainable chemistry webpage](#).

2. A report on relevant issues where emerging evidence indicates a risk to human health and the environment (see page 6); developed at the request of Resolution 4/8. Resolution 5/7 recognizes the need to take further action to reduce or eliminate risks associated with the issues discussed in the report. Furthermore, Resolution 5/7 requests the Executive Director to seek views on priorities for further work, building on existing measures and initiatives, and on potential further international action on the issues, and to prepare a summary analysis.

[An Assessment Report on Issues of Concern: Chemicals and Waste Issues Posing Risks to Human Health and the Environment](#) (UNEP 2020) is available on the UNEP webpage on [chemical and waste reports for UNEA-5](#). The report is accompanied by [annexes](#) and an [executive summary](#) (also available in [Arabic, Chinese, French, Russian, Spanish](#)).

3. An assessment of options for strengthening the science-policy interface at the international level for the sound management of chemicals and waste, developed at the request of Resolution 4/8. Resolution 5/8 decided that a science policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution should be established. (see page 8).

[An assessment report of options for strengthening the science-policy interface at the international level for the sound management of chemicals and waste](#) (UNEP 2020) is available on the UNEP chemical and waste reports webpage. The report is accompanied by an [executive summary](#) also available in [Arabic; Chinese; French; Russian; Spanish](#).

4. Other relevant information from Resolution 5/7.
5. Other UNEA 5.2 Resolutions with relevance to the sound management of chemicals and waste and tackling pollution

These UNEA Resolutions and related work conducted by UNEP, are relevant to discussions in the context of the intersessional process considering the Strategic Approach and sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

1. Update on the preparation and use of manuals on green and sustainable chemistry

Advancing the sustainability of chemistry and a long-term holistic approach for the sound management of chemicals and waste

In response to Resolution 4/8 on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste, adopted at the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and Resolution 5/7 on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste, adopted at the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

(August 2022)

Background

The manuals on green and sustainable chemistry are being developed in response to the Resolution 4/8 which welcomed the analysis of best practices in sustainable chemistry and recognized the value of developing a better understanding of sustainable chemistry opportunities globally. The resolution requested the Executive Director, subject to the availability of resources and, where appropriate, in cooperation with the member organizations of the Inter-Organization Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), to synthesize UNEP's analysis of best practices in sustainable chemistry into manuals on green and sustainable chemistry, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, by UNEA 5, and to continue the work on a holistic approach for the sound management of chemicals and waste in the long term, taking into account both the importance of the sound management of chemicals and the potential benefits of chemicals for sustainable development.

Resolution 5/7 welcomed the Green and Sustainable Chemistry: Framework Manual and its executive summary and encouraged their use as appropriate.

The Manuals build upon two documents:

- In 2019, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) prepared the '[Analysis of Stakeholder Submissions on Sustainable Chemistry Pursuant to UNEA Resolution 2/7'3](#) (Nairobi, Kenya 23-27 May 2016), which was made available as an information document at UNEA-4
- [The Global Chemicals Outlook II](#) (GCO-II), published by UNEP in 2019, which lists among the implementation of actions up to and beyond 2020 to integrate green and sustainable chemistry in education, research, and innovation policies and programmes.

The Manuals aim to contribute towards ensuring that the benefits of chemistry are maximized, and risks prevented through innovative and sustainable solutions and forward thinking by providing a point of reference for policymakers as well as entrepreneurs and innovators in the chemical industry and downstream sectors. The Framework Manual, a Specialized Manual on Green and Sustainable Chemistry Education (under development) and resources to support strategic action may inform discussions of the intersessional process.

A draft concept note on the preparation of manuals on green and sustainable chemistry was provided for the third meeting of the intersessional process (IP3), held in Bangkok, Thailand in October 2019 ([SAICM/IP.3/INF/9](#)). This note provides an update of the key milestones and activities since IP3 and outlines activities envisaged for disseminating the Manuals and promoting their use.

Activities since the third meeting of the intersessional process (IP3).

Since IP3, UNEP has undertaken several activities to develop the Manuals, disseminate their contents and promote uptake. This has included a number of workshops, webinars and consultations aimed at a range of

stakeholders in government, the private sector and international organizations. For details on the specific activities please see [UNEP's webpage on green and sustainable chemistry](#).

UNEP Green and Sustainable Chemistry: Framework Manual

[The Green and Sustainable Chemistry: Framework Manual](#) provides a high-level overview of various scientific, technical and policy aspects of green and sustainable chemistry. At the heart of the Framework Manual are 10 objectives and guiding considerations for green and sustainable chemistry, presented in Figure 1. The Objectives seek to inspire and guide relevant stakeholders to shift their chemistry innovations towards sustainability. This Framework Manual targets a range of audiences and stakeholders concerned with the sound management of chemicals and waste, as well as innovation for green and sustainable chemistry and sustainable product development. The overall intention of the Framework Manual is to foster learning and scaling-up action to advance the Objectives and unveil the full potential of chemistry such that it is compatible with, and supports, the implementation of the 2030 sustainable development agenda.

Figure 1: The Ten Objectives and Guiding Considerations for Green and Sustainable Chemistry



UNEP Green and Sustainable Chemistry: Framework Manual – Executive Summary

The Framework Manual is accompanied by an [Executive Summary](#) (also available in [French](#), [Spanish](#), [Russian](#), [Arabic](#) and [Chinese](#)). It contains key elements and concepts from the Framework Manual and its use was also encouraged in Resolution 5/7.

UNEP Specialized Manual on Green and Sustainable Chemistry Education

The GCO-II States “Further action at all levels is needed to disseminate best practices in green and sustainable chemistry education and overcome barriers in academia and the private sector. Furthermore, the expert group which supported the development of the Framework Manual agreed that the next manual should focus on education. At the time of this update, the Specialized Manual is in its final development stages.

By providing practical guidance for designing effective green and chemistry learning, and featuring examples and resources, the Specialized Manual intends to stimulate and facilitate transformative changes through education to reap the full potential of green and sustainable chemistry. In addition to providing practical advice to teachers and educators, this Specialized Manual seeks to inspire change agents engaged in, or influential in shaping and transforming education and learning programmes concerned with chemistry and sustainability learning.

Next milestone activities

UNEP's Specialized Manual on Green and Sustainable Chemistry Education will be made available online and disseminated. Outreach activities and material development around the Framework Manual and the ten Objectives and Guiding Considerations for Green and Sustainable Chemistry will be further conducted to support the use of the Framework Manual, as called for in Resolution 5/7.

Resources are currently being developed to support stakeholders to take strategic action to advance green and sustainable chemistry. A workshop is planned on 12 September 2022 to gather illustrative examples and insights from stakeholders that have implemented relevant strategic actions. UNEP will continue engaging stakeholders, including IOMC members, as well as partners, to support actions which align with and advance the Ten Objectives and Guiding Considerations for Green and Sustainable Chemistry.

2. Preparation and use of a report on relevant issues where emerging evidence indicates a risk to human health and the environment

In response to Resolution 4/8 on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste, adopted at the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and Resolution 5/7 on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste, adopted at the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

(August 2022)

Background

Resolution 4/8 on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste, adopted by UNEA 4 (Nairobi, Kenya, 11-15 March 2019), requested the Executive Director subject to the availability of resources and, where appropriate, in cooperation with the member organizations of the Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), to prepare a report by 30 April 2020 on relevant issues where emerging evidence indicates a risk to human health and the environment identified by SAICM, the GCO and under subparagraph (e) above¹, including an analysis of existing regulatory and policy frameworks and their ability to address these issues towards the achievement of the 2020 goal, in particular for lead and cadmium.

The assessment report on issues of concern: chemicals and waste issues posing risks to human health and the environment, its annexes and its accompanying executive summary are [available online](#). The report seeks to strengthen the knowledge base and thus help facilitate informed decision-making to address the relevant issues by governments, industry, civil society and academia.

This note provides an update on the development of the report and provides an overview of next steps for the implementation of Resolution 5/7 on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste adopted by UNEA 5.2 (Nairobi Kenya, 28 February – 2 March 2022). It requests the Executive Director to:

- 1) seek views on priorities for further work, and on potential further international action, on the issues discussed in the Assessment Report on Issues of Concern and
- 2) prepare a summary analysis for consideration by the Environment Assembly and by other international bodies

A draft concept note of the assessment report on issues of concern and its draft outline were provided at the third meeting of the intersessional process, held in Bangkok, Thailand in October 2019 ([SAICM/IP.3/INF/9](#)). In late 2019 and during the first quarter of 2020 a first draft of the report was prepared with engagement from experts across the globe. In compiling relevant information, the IOMC participating organizations and relevant secretariats of MEAs were engaged on a regular basis. In September 2020 the report was finalized and published online.

Activities since the third meeting of the intersessional process (IP3).

In October 2020 the report was launched at the “[Chemicals and Waste: From Science to Policy, Global Issues of Concern, Challenges and Opportunities](#)” virtual briefing organized with the Global Environment Network. A [Technical Briefing on the report](#) was organized in November 2020 during the SAICM Virtual Working Group meetings to support the discussions of Virtual Working Group 3 on Issues of Concern.

On May 27th 2021, key elements of the report were presented at the [Geneva Environment Network’s Chemical and Waste Briefing](#). The event provided an overview of the status of the negotiations related to chemicals and waste and upcoming important conferences.

¹ (e): Follow trends in the design, production, use and release of chemicals and the generation of waste in order to identify issues of concern for future editions of the Global Chemicals Outlook and the Global Waste Management Outlook and catalyse sound management actions

The report was again presented at the 2022 [Geneva Environment Network's Chemical and Waste Briefing](#) held on April 28th alongside the call from Resolution 5/7 for stakeholders to take further action to reduce or eliminate the risks associated with the issues discussed in the report.

Assessment report on issues of concern

The report aims to inform the international community about the current situation of specific issues of concern, based on a review of published evidence, in order to support further discussion at UNEA 5 and other international forums working towards sound management of chemicals and waste.

The report seeks to inform and complement ongoing work in the context of SAICM and the intersessional process.

In chapter 3, the report assesses the eight emerging policy issues and other issues of concern identified under the Strategic Approach to International Chemicals Management (SAICM): chemicals in products (CiP), endocrine disrupting chemicals (EDCs), environmentally persistent pharmaceutical pollutants (EPPPs), hazardous substances in the life cycle of electrical and electronic products (HSLEEP), highly hazardous pesticides (HHPs), lead in paint, nanotechnology and manufactured nanomaterials (Nanomaterials), and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFASs). Building on GCO-II findings and highlighting challenges and opportunities, chapter 3:

- relies on sources of information and actions beyond the input from the respective lead organizations to provide comprehensive but not exhaustive overviews (e.g., peer-reviewed scientific articles, technical reports); and
- systematically analyzes existing regulatory and policy frameworks and their ability to address these issues; and
- provides relevant policy insights, as appropriate.

In chapter 4, the report also addresses the 11 issues with emerging evidence of risks identified by GCO-II: arsenic, bisphenol A, cadmium, glyphosate, lead, microplastics, neonicotinoids, organotins, phthalates, PAHs and triclosan. It assesses current exposure as well as instruments and actions under current regulatory and policy frameworks, highlighting challenges and opportunities. Background information on environmental or human health effects of the issues are also provided based on existing assessments by national governments and intergovernmental institutions, to raise awareness among governments and stakeholders.

A “thought starter” on the identification of issues of concern is presented, including a review of existing approaches, a map of other current relevant initiatives, and considerations of potential areas in which future issues of concern might be identified and possible identification processes. This is followed by an overarching outlook for future international work on issues of concern.

Next milestone activities

Resolution 5/7 requested UNEP to seek views from Member States and other stakeholders on priorities for further work, and on potential further international action, on the issues discussed in the Assessment Report on Issues of Concern and to prepare a summary analysis for consideration by the Environment Assembly and by other international bodies. In response, UNEP is developing a set of information sheets on the 19 Issues of Concern discussed in the report and is planning a series of online technical briefings and regional webinars, in 2022. Views from Member States and other stakeholders on priorities for further work and on potential further international action on the issues will be sought through written consultation between the end of 2022 and the first quarter of 2023, as well as through the organization of a global consultation meeting in the first half of 2023 (date tbd). A summary analysis will be prepared for consideration at UNEA 6.

3. Update on assessment of options for strengthening the science-policy interface at the international level for the sound management of chemicals and waste report and establishment of a science policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and prevent pollution

In response to Resolution 4/8 on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste, adopted at the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and Resolution 5/8 on a Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution, adopted at the fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly

(August 2022)

Background

Resolution 4/8 on Sound Management of Chemicals and Waste, adopted by UNEA 4, requested the Executive Director subject to the availability of resources and, where appropriate, in cooperation with the member organizations of the Inter-Organisation Programme for the Sound Management of Chemicals (IOMC), Prepare, by 30 April 2020, an assessment of options for strengthening the science-policy interface at the international level for the sound management of chemicals and waste, taking into account existing mechanisms, including under the United Nations Environment Programme, and relevant examples in other areas, in order to maximize cost-effectiveness, make best use of new technologies, track progress and improve implementation of relevant multilateral environmental agreements at the national level, and make the assessment available for consideration by all stakeholders prior to the fifth meeting of the International Conference on Chemicals Management. This report is [available online](#).

Resolution 5/8 on a Science-Policy Panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution adopted by UNEA 5.2 noted the assessment of options report and decided that a science policy panel should be established. The resolution further decided to establish an ad-hoc expert group with UNEP requested to be secretariat.

Key Milestones in the preparation and dissemination of the assessment of options report

The assessment of options report informed discussions leading up to UNEA 5.2 in which Resolution 5/8 decided to establish a science policy panel. The ad-hoc open-ended working group is tasked with preparing proposals for the Panel to consider issues and ensure features, some of which are outlined in the assessment of options report.

Activities since the third meeting of the intersessional process (IP3).

The assessment of options report was presented, and informed the discussions, which took place during the intersessional process [Virtual Working Group II](#) on Governance and mechanisms to support implementation.

On May 27th 2021, key elements of the report were presented at the [Geneva Environment Network's Chemical and Waste Briefing](#). The event is meant to provide an overview of the status of the negotiations related to chemicals and waste and upcoming important conferences.

In preparation for UNEA 5.2, a series of 5 regional workshops were held titled "On the road to UNEA 5.2: Establishing a Science-Policy Panel (SPP) for Chemicals, Waste and Pollution". This series of webinars was co-convened by Albania, Mali, North-Macedonia, Switzerland and Uruguay with logistical support from UNEP. They aimed to inform stakeholders of the key findings from the UNEP Assessment Report and to provide attendees with a platform to exchange in preparation for discussions expected to take place during UNEA 5.2.

Preparations of the Ad-Hoc Open-Ended Working Group

In addition to presentations at different international events, and regional meetings, the first webinar of a series was conducted on 25 July 2022 and provided a background on the Science-Policy panel process and discussed its scope and possible structure. It highlighted Countries' priorities on chemicals, waste and pollution as well as the role of science and academia in its modus operandi. More information and a recording of the event are available on the [OEWG webpage](#).

An invitation letter was sent to invite stakeholders to the first session of the ad hoc open-ended working group on a science-policy panel to contribute further to the sound management of chemicals and waste and to prevent pollution (OEWG-1), scheduled to take place on 6 October 2022 at the headquarters of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) in Nairobi, Kenya. OEWG will be invited to consider, in particular, the formal establishment of its Bureau, including the election of the chair, vice-chairs, and rapporteur, as well as to consider and adopt the rules of procedures for the conduct of its work. This initial one-day meeting will also provide Member States and observers with an opportunity to deliver general statements on the establishment of the science-policy panel.

Member States were invited to nominate their national focal point for the OEWG process. National focal points will serve as the main contact points for communications with the Secretariat and be responsible for dissemination of information related to the workings and findings of the OEWG in their country.

More information will continue to be made available on the meeting webpage.

4. Other relevant elements of UNEA Resolution 5/7

In addition to those elements mentioned earlier in this document, Resolution 5/7 refers to other key topics related to the sound management of chemicals and waste.

Among others, the Resolution;

- Invites stakeholders to address the adverse impact of pesticides and fertilizers.
- Recognizes that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is important for the enjoyment of human rights
- Expresses concern that increasing levels of illegal transboundary movements of hazardous wastes and other waste, as reported by developing countries, have a disproportionately negative impact
- Requests the Executive Director to present a full range of options for addressing asbestos contaminants in products and the environment
- Requests the Executive Director, to update the report entitled [State of the Science of Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals](#) (2012)

It also includes references to SAICM and the Special Programme, inviting Governments and all stakeholders involved in the Beyond 2020 process to put in place an ambitious and improved enabling framework to address the sound management of chemicals and waste. The resolution reaffirms the importance of the integrated approach to financing of the sound management of chemicals and waste, noting the importance of the Special Programme in supporting developing States and deciding to extend its duration for a period of five years.

Below are reports that may be relevant to the above additional elements of Resolution 5/7

- [The Synthesis report on the environmental and health impacts of pesticides and fertilizers and ways of minimizing them](#) (UNEP 2022) and its accompanying [summary for policy makers](#) (also available in [Arabic](#), [French](#), [Russian](#) and [Spanish](#)) can be found on [UNEP's environmental and health impacts of pesticides and fertilizers and ways of minimizing them webpage](#)
- [The Summary for Policymakers - Environmental Dimensions of Antimicrobial Resistance \(AMR\)](#) was launched on the side-lines of UNEA 5.2 and calls to strengthen environmental action on AMR. The report looks at the pollutants that exacerbate AMR in the environment, where they come from, and provides an overview of the environmental action required.
- An [assessment paper](#) on linkages with other clusters related to chemicals and waste management and options to coordinate and cooperate on areas of common interest. It seeks to build upon cooperation and coordination initiatives already in place between chemicals and waste management and seven related clusters: health, biodiversity, world of work, climate change, agriculture and food, human rights and sustainable consumption and production. It also aims to explore means to further scale up such efforts and provide elements for consideration by the intersessional process for SAICM and the sound management of chemicals and waste beyond 2020.

5. Other UNEA 5.2 Resolutions addressing the sound management of chemicals and waste and tackling pollution

In addition to Resolution 5/7 and Resolution 5/8 discussed previously, UNEA 5.2 took decisions and resolutions which have linkages with the sound management of chemicals and waste. Below is a summary of the elements of these Resolutions which relate to the sound management of chemicals and waste, including references to relevant existing UNEP reports.

[Resolution 5/1 on Animal welfare environment and sustainable development nexus;](#)

- Acknowledges that animal welfare can contribute to addressing environmental challenges, promoting the One Health approach and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Requests UNEP in close collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Health Organization and the World Organization for Animal Health, as well as with the One Health High-Level Expert Panel to produce a report on the nexus between animal welfare, the environment and sustainable development and to prepare a summary of the findings for consideration by Member States.

[Resolution 5/2 on Sustainable Nitrogen Management;](#)

- Notes the benefits that reducing nitrogen waste would bring to atmospheric, terrestrial, freshwater and marine environments and to human health, ecosystem services and efforts to combat pollution, climate change and biodiversity loss.
- Encourages member states to accelerate actions towards improved sustainable nitrogen management and to share information on national action plans
- Requests UNEP to support member states, at their request, in the development of these action plans and to identify possible modalities for the options being considered for improved coordination policies across the global nitrogen cycle.

[Resolution 5/3 on the Future of the Global Environment Outlook;](#)

- Decides that the core function of the Global Environment Outlook process should be to undertake, every four years, an intergovernmental, expert-led, global authoritative assessment.
- Requests UNEP to undertake the preparation of the seventh edition of the Global Environment Outlook assessment.

The sixth Global Environment Outlook (GEO-6) (UNEP 2019) is available for download on the [GEO-6 webpage](#).

[Resolution 5/6 on Biodiversity and Health;](#)

- Recognizes that the interdependent crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution are causing devastation and strain on health systems, including through the emergence of infectious and non-communicable diseases and increasing health inequalities,
- Requests UNEP through its role in the Quadripartite Alliance to assist Member States in taking measures including, among others, to institute actions to enhance the availability, quality and timeliness of data for monitoring and surveillance, capacity and capability across One Health sectors, and support timely detection and responses to health risks linked to environmental factors.
- Invites all Member States and relevant stakeholders, including the private sector, to develop measures that address the issues, including through appropriate waste management of antimicrobials and actions for the sound management of waste and for addressing pollution.

[Resolution 5/11 on enhancing circular economy as a contribution to achieving sustainable consumption and production;](#)

- Acknowledges that pursuing circular economy approaches as a pathway to achieving sustainable consumption and production patterns can contribute to addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, land degradation and the impact of water stress, pollution and the impact thereof on human health.
- Welcomes the work conducted by UNEP in its [Partnership for Clean Fuels and Vehicles](#) and the contribution made by the Partnership to a more circular economy by addressing vehicle-associated emissions, pollution, chemicals and waste.
- Welcomes the analysis by the International Resource Panel in its report [Global Resources Outlook 2019: Natural Resources for the Future We Want](#) (IRP 2019).

[Resolution 5/12 on environmental aspects of minerals and metals management;](#)

- Underlines the specific environmental challenges related to artisanal and small-scale mining and their related health risks (See the [Global Mercury Project webpage](#) on addressing mercury releases from artisanal and small-scale gold mining).
- Requests UNEP, with the engagement of the secretariats of relevant multilateral environmental agreements, organizations and stakeholders, as appropriate, to compile a report on knowledge gaps in relation to the environmental aspects of tailings management.

[Resolution 5/14 to end plastic pollution: Towards an international legally binding instrument;](#)

- Recognizes that plastic pollution includes microplastics.
- Underlines the importance of promoting sustainable design of products and materials and reaffirms the importance of cooperation, coordination and complementarity among relevant regional and international conventions and instruments.
- Decides that the intergovernmental negotiating committee is to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment which could include both binding and voluntary approaches, based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic, taking into account, among other things, the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, as well as national circumstances and capabilities, and including provisions.